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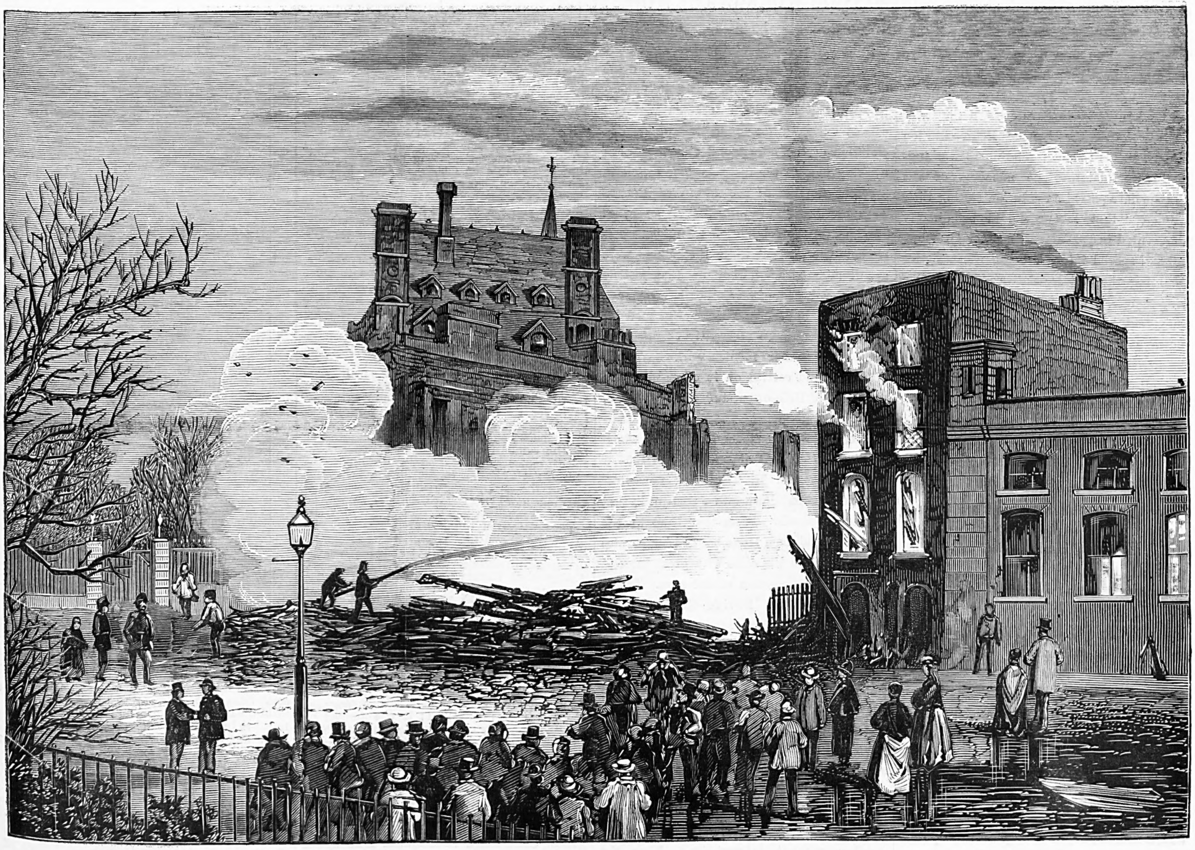
QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

The Christmas festivities over, and the New Year's congratulations bestowed upon everybody, there is time to look around and watch the social Wheel of Life and its innumerable revolutions.

What can be done to prevent the startling amount of crime which the papers report daily? It is appalling to take up the *Times*, or *Telegraph*, or *Pall Mall Gazette*, and find their columns crowded with murders, outrages, and criminal assaults upon the weaker sex. The journals teem with such records. To recapitulate them all briefly even would take up more space than can be afforded. Let a few examples suffice.

Cecilia Aldridge is an "unfortunate"—was, should be written, for all that remains of her is hidden in a lifeless tenement of clay. A native of Liverpool, she first "fell into misfortune," then went to London and took lodgings at a house in Spitalfields. She left her humble apartment every evening at seven o'clock, and did not return until two in the morning; and the other day her murdered body was found at an hotel in Finsbury Square. There is every reason to believe that her murderer is a Swiss hotel waiter, who first decoyed her to the hotel, and subsequently beat out her brains. The Swiss is in custody, and will be charged with the crime, which stands out all the stronger on account of the unfeeling statement made to the authorities by the sister of the murdered girl. She had missed her sister; "having heard people speaking about a young woman who had been murdered in Finsbury-square, and reading a description of her in the paper" she "at once recognised her as her sister, twenty-five years of age. I have since gone to see her body, and it is that of my sister. Her mother and father are now living in Liverpool, but I have written for them, and they will come up to London to see her. It was the misfortune she met with that made her leave her home, but I have nothing to do with that. I could not stop her leading the life she did, because she was older than I was and all that I could do was to keep myself respectable, and that I have done."

Murders in the Australian gold-fields were lamentably frequent, and occasionally an undiscovered murderer, overwhelmed with remorse and conscience-stricken, delivers himself up to the hands of justice, willing to expiate his offence on the scaffold. We have a case of this description reported this week George Dyer, clerk, confesses to the murder of George Wilson at the Loddon gold-



BURNING OF THE "STAR AND GARTER" HOTEL, RICHMOND. *(See page 352.)*

diggings at Victoria fourteen years ago. Until the question has been asked in Australia, and we get evidence of the crime, Dyer can be charged only with manslaughter, he asserting that he killed Wilson in self-defence.

There is a wife-murder in the list, and an attempt to murder a wife. The capital offence was committed in our own district. Joseph Miller, a coffee-mill maker at Walsall, stands charged with murdering his wife Elizabeth. Only one person was in Miller's house when the crime was committed. The prisoner told a policeman that "the way she had been going on of late he could not do with her;" so he brained the woman he had promised before God to "love, obey, honour, and cherish till death us do part." He stands committed for wilful murder. An attempt will perhaps be made to save the prisoner's life if he is sentenced to death, on the ground of insanity. When asked if he wished to make any statement, he said, "I can 'hing' for it—I can 'hing,' I can;" and upon hearing that he was committed to Stafford Gaol for trial at the next assizes, he said, "Thank you, thank you. When is it? Is it in March?"

A draper's assistant, named Joseph Godson, is charged with attempting to procure abortion by administering poison to Elizabeth Thatcher, "a little delicate girl," who "was very ill, and was led into the Thames police-court, and accommodated with a seat." The two were assistants in the same drapery establishment in the Commercial-road; they had been lovers, and Gordon had ruined the child, having given her "some medicine which he said would do her good."

With the bare mention of the murder of Daniel Shaw by his wife at Norbury Hollow, near Stockport, let us turn from the page of horrors that every newspaper contains, and glance at the efforts that well-meaning persons are making to remedy the present state of things.

Into Mr. Bright's Birmingham speeches on education we need not enter here. Those utterances have been fully reported and commented upon. The President of the Board of Trade appears to have aroused the ire of a body called the Labour Representation League by his remarks relating to working-men's candidates. The members of the League have passed a resolution stating their opinion "that labour should be directly represented in Parliament, a thorough knowledge of special interests being necessary for obtaining the best legislative results. They will, therefore, ever regard the exclusion of competent working men through class prejudice as an insult; and, notwithstanding the opinions of Mr. Bright, they are anxious that all interests should be directly represented in the national Legislature, and they are determined those of labour shall not be excluded." The desire that working men should be in Parliament is spreading. It was only a few days ago that Major Anson, the member for Bewdley, declared his belief that the working classes should be represented in the House of Commons, and offered his assistance to obtain that, as he thought, desirable end. This week Mr. W. E. Forster has been speaking at Bradford, chiefly upon the educational question, but generally on public affairs. The right hon. gentleman was necessarily reticent so far as the secrets of the Cabinet are concerned. Where he could do so, however, consistently with his position, he spoke freely and clearly. He asked his hearers to wait until they saw the educational measure which will be brought forward by the Government, and then pass their judgment upon it. Any way, a measure ought to be passed this year.

I am not one of those (said Mr. Foster) who say that knowledge is virtue—but I do say this, that ignorance is weakness, and that it is weakness to resist temptation that fills your prisons, and weakness to carry on the struggle of life that fills your workhouses. (Hear, hear.) If we are to empty the prisons and the workhouses, then we must handle the question of education at once. (Cheers.)

He touched briefly upon the work of next Session, mentioning Trades' Unions, the Ballot, and University Tests as subjects which would have to be discussed, and let us add settled. Mr. Forster made his vast audience laugh by drawing a parallel between his colleagues and 'bus drivers:—

As Mr. Bright has said, it is quite impossible to drive six omnibuses abreast through Temple Bar—(laughter)—but they may go through Temple Bar one after another. If there are well-filled omnibuses going from the West-end to the East, or from the East to the West, they manage to get to their journey's end. It is irreverent for me to suppose my chief in that position, but I can say that a well-filled omnibus, with Mr. Gladstone as driver, and Mr. Bright as the amiable and attractive conductor, the Irish land omnibus will go first. (Cheers.) The road will have to be cleared for that omnibus, and I should not like to be the vehicle which stood in the way of it. (Cheers and laughter.)

The signs of the times do not depress Mr. Forster. He is not cast down by the outlook, though he acknowledges that "the times are certainly very anxious and very serious." With all our anxiety he thinks "the times are not bad for their settlement," and that the present "is full of hope and promise." It is cheering to hear this from a leading member of the Cabinet—in fact, no more cheerful speech has been made for many months than this of Mr. Forster's. Even the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is honestly hyper-critical, professes to be satisfied with the address; it was "a good, loud, frank speech—cheerful and cheering," and the *Pall Mall*, which regards "spouting" as "not a very dignified or wholesome exercise," proclaims its willingness for once to "forgive the stump."

MISSION WORK IN THE MINES.

Ninety-nine in a hundred of the inhabitants of Birmingham and of the Black Country generally must be unacquainted with the quiet but heroic works of Christian philanthropy that have been set on foot and carried out for the religious instruction and elevation of the miners and other classes of working men in the district. The article in a recent number of the *Illustrated Midland News* ascribes to the Rev. F. Keutch, of Blackheath, the origination of religious services in the coal-pit while the miners were at dinner. The author of that article had never heard of any other case of such a mission. But he and those who read his description must be pleasantly surprised to learn that similar mission-work has been instituted and carried on in other mines in the parish of Halesowen. Indeed, that parish, under the ministration of the Ven. Archdeacon Hone, seems to be the field in which this interesting work originated. In 1854 or 1855 the Rev. J. H. Thompson, now vicar of Cradley, went down into a coal-pit in that parish to preach. From that time to the present Archdeacon Hone has had ten curates who have done the same with great interest and to the satisfaction of the men. Lately one of them, on leaving the parish on the eve of his marriage, received a handsome wedding present purchased with money collected of their own accord and among themselves by the miners. At the present time Archdeacon Hone's curates preach in the mines, and sometimes both of them go down together into the same pit, and hold separate services in two different places in which the men assemble for dinner. Indeed during the last 15 years there has been a weekly service in one coal pit and a fortnightly service in another without intermission. Thus the description of the "religious services in the Cathedral of St. Jonas" would be appropriate to those held in other mines in the parish of Halesowen.

It would be interesting to know if Halesowen is, in very deed, the first field opened up for this mission of the mines. If so, it is to be hoped and believed that it will not long stand alone in this most Christian work—that other mineral districts in the kingdom will follow this admirable example, until the best light of the Gospel shall be carried into all these dark places of human toil.

MESSRS. FLOWER & SONS' BREWERY,

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

"And here's a pot of double beer, neighbour; drink and fear not your man," saith one of Horner's neighbours in "King Henry VI." We do not remember any other instance of Shakespeare mentioning beer. Sack was the principal beverage manufactured at Stratford-on-Avon when the poet was courting Ann Hathaway and the Muses. But in these later days the famous old town is known chiefly in the world of commerce for its brewing of ale. The woollen manufacture for which the town was formerly noted has dropped almost out of memory. The occupation of the inhabitants is chiefly agricultural. It is a fine picturesque town, as our readers need hardly be told, and possesses an interest for civilized nations everywhere. At some future day we hope to give our readers some special illustrations of the place. Meanwhile we have to deal with the chief and only important manufactory of the district. In truth the large establishment which we illustrate on page 344, is one of the most notable industries of Warwickshire, and being so forms a fitting subject for pictorial description in the *Illustrated Midland News*. A short distance from the railway station, and just on the outskirts of Stratford, the brewery of Messrs. Flower and Sons is a conspicuous feature in the landscape, and the most interesting trading establishment in the neighbourhood. The brewery was founded by Mr. E. F. Flower (father of the present proprietors) in 1831, after the repeal of the acts which had previously made the brewing trade a monopoly in the hands of a comparatively few capitalists. The small business at first established has steadily increased until it has obtained its present important proportions, a result due to the firm's unflagging attention to every improvement in the art of brewing, which during the last forty years has been changed from the merest haphazard routine to a recognized science. Many of the improvements in the manufacture of beer which are now in use throughout the country owe their origin to the members of this firm, and to the opportunities which they have afforded others to carry out experiments. One of the latest and most important of these improvements, and one which seems likely to make a complete revolution in the process of cooling, is the application of ice-making machines to ordinary refrigerating purposes. Four years ago Messrs. Flower and Sons, after much consideration and a long series of minor experiments, purchased one of Kirk's most powerful machines, which was proved capable of making three tons of ice in twenty-four hours. The machine was intended to cool a chamber in which the beer was worked; it was erected for that purpose, but after twelve months' working and the expenditure of upwards of £2,000, the first idea was abandoned, not, however, without result, for in the course of the experiments it was found that these machines might be profitably employed in the direct cooling of beer, without the intermediate process of ice-making. During the last three summers this machine has been worked night and day with the most satisfactory results. Messrs. Flower and Sons have given to other brewers the advantage of the risk, cost, and trouble of their own experiments, and have pointed out improved modes of working suggested by their own experience; and now several of the largest brewers in England have erected apparatus on the same principle, but still more powerful and effective.

Our illustration includes two of the malthouses attached to the brewery; the offices of the firm; the stabling (on the left of the picture), with loose boxes for thirty-four horses; the yard, in the middle back-ground, where the casks are piled up in pyramids; and other buildings. The principal malting establishment is at a little distance, for the convenience arising from its proximity to the railway; it is shown in the illustration to the left of the casks, and, with the spacious new buildings now being erected, may form a subject for future illustration.

The members of the firm are highly respected in Stratford, and are well known on account of the active part they have invariably taken in the Shakespeare festivals. At times they have had distinguished literary visitors to their brewery. Amongst them may be mentioned the late Douglas Jerrold and Mr. Charles Dickens. It was the former who suggested the calling of several of the largest vats after Shakespeare's plays. This idea was carried out, and now the visitor may see on the casks in the cellar "As You Like It," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Measure for Measure," "Winter's Tale," "All's Well that Ends Well," "Macbeth," &c. On the occasion of the visit of the famous *littérateurs*, one vat was not named; it was termed by one "The Comedy of Errors;" that was rubbed off, and when the party came round again, one of them with a piece of chalk, wrote on the vat the appropriate title "Much Ado about Nothing." Subsequently, the name was altered to "All's Well that Ends Well."

Messrs. Flower and Sons' establishment employs altogether about 130 men, and 45 clerks and travellers, They have special representatives at Bristol, Cheltenham, Birmingham, Leamington, London, and other places; and some idea of the extent of their trade may be gathered from the statement that they have between 30,000 and 40,000 travelling casks in use.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

A solution of strong isinglass and honey makes a good water varnish for covering water-colours.

Animal charcoal broken in small pieces, about the size of beans, is allowed to be the best filtering medium for water in the world. Ordinary rain water filtered through this medium becomes as pure as distilled water.

To Sweeten Casks.—Mix half a pint of vitriol with a quart of water, pour it into the barrel, and roll it about; next day add one pound of chalk, and roll again. Bung down for three days, then rinse well with hot water.

To Take Out Fruit Spots.—Let the spotted part of the cloth imbibe a little water, without dipping, and hold the part over a lighted common brimstone match at a proper distance. The sulphurous gas which is discharged soon causes the spot to disappear.

Fashions.—In deference to several suggestions from lady correspondents we have commenced a "fashion" article this week in the *Illustrated Midland News*. The writer will return to his subject once a month, and his information may be relied upon.

Fruit.—"Agricola" is informed that there is a large fruit farm in Worcestershire, not far from Pershore, admirably managed and yielding an immense crop of currants, plums, and apples. The Pershore district supplies some of our largest markets with their heaviest weights of fruit. "Agricola" (Kent) is thanked for his letter.

Test for Poisonous Paper-Hangings.—Common spirits of hartshorn or ammonia is a sure test for arsenic. On application, the beautiful but dangerous green turns to a blue. A small drop on the back of a leaf, might be made to reveal the secret of its deadly composition; but the unnatural vividity of the green itself is almost sufficient.

Cleaning Carpets.—Take a pail of cold water, and add to it three gills of ox-gall. Rub it into the carpet with a soft brush. It will raise a lather, which must be washed off with clear cold water. Rub dry with a clean cloth. In nailing down a carpet after the floor has been washed, be certain that the floor is quite dry, or the nails will rust and injure the carpet. Fuller's earth is used for cleaning carpets, and weak solutions of alum or soda are used for reviving the colours. The crumb of a hot wheaten loaf rubbed over a carpet has been found effective.

Damp Walls and how to Cure them.—Remove the whole of the damp plaster down to the surface of the brick or stone walls, rake out the joints, clean and well wet the surface; lay on a coat of good Portland cement, mixed with one-sixth sand; be careful to cover every part of the brick or stone; broom or otherwise roughen the surface of the cement while soft; let this stand a few days to get a hard skin on it, then register in the usual way. It will not be well to finish the inside surface with Portland cement, as condensation will take place on the surface in damp weather. If speed in execution be desired, the surface may be finished with Plaster of Paris, Keene's, Parian, or Martin's cement, with the usual proportion of sand.—*Builder*.

Seasonable Food for January.—In *Cassell's Household Guide* we find the following *carte* for the month of January. To young housekeepers, and to those who have not yet begun to keep house, it may be useful:—*Meat.*—Beef, veal, mutton, pork, house lamb, doe venison. *Game and Poultry.*—Hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, snipes, fowls, chickens, capons, pullets, turkeys, tame pigeons. *Fish.*—Turbot, soles, flounders, plaice, skate, whitings, cod, haddocks, herrings, smelts, lampreys, oysters, lobsters, crabs, prawns, eels, carp, tench, perch. *Vegetables.*—Cabbages, broccoli, savoys, sprouts, endive, Scotch kale, sea-kale, spinach, lettuces, celery, cardoons, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, salsify, turnips, potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, onions, leeks, garlic, shalots, mustard and cress, cucumbers, asparagus, mushrooms. Garden herbs, both dry and green, being chiefly used in stuffing and soups, and for flavouring and garnishing certain dishes, are always in season. Such are tarragon, chervil, savory, mint, sage, thyme, and parsley, which can be procured all the year round. *Fruits.*—Apples, pears, medlars, figs, raisins, currants, prunes, grapes, walnuts, nuts, filberts, almonds, oranges, lemons. Preserved and dried fruits of all kinds may be used throughout the winter, as also jams, marmalade, and fruit jellies.

To Stop the Bleeding of Vines—a Cheap Styptic.—It is not always practicable to prune the vines in late houses before the sap has commenced to circulate; therefore we are bound to adopt some means to prevent the loss of sap and injury to the vines that result from excessive bleeding. For several years past I have paid much attention to this matter, and during that time, by way of experiment have tried every known remedy to test their respective merits, most of which are either useless or so expensive as to prevent their being used where there are large numbers of vines, or by amateurs with limited incomes. Several unknown remedies were tried, some good and some bad; but one, fortunately, quite superseded all those hitherto known, so that I have hesitated whether I ought not to turn an honest (?) penny by distributing it to the public at so much per bottle; but I have decided instead to make the matter public in this way, so that all who have late vineries may have a simple and effectual remedy at hand when required. Knowing the drying nature of the "Patent Knotting" used by painters for dressing kots in wood, previous to applying the usual coat of paint, I fancied it would make a good styptic, and tried it accordingly. It was first tried upon some vines the crop from which was not gathered until the sap was in active circulation, and it was found to be very effectual. The wounds caused by cutting the lateral shoots back were painted with it, and the vines scarcely lost a drop of sap. The "Patent Knotting" can be obtained from any oilman, and sufficient for dressing a large house of vines can be had for a few pence. Styptics ought not to be required where very early forcing is not carried on, or where the whole of the grapes are cut before Christmas, because if the vines are pruned, as they should be, before the sap begins to move, there is no danger of "bleeding," and therefore no styptics for its prevention are wanted.—George Fairbairn, Sion House.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Execution of Tropmann.—The last act of the Pantin tragedy was played out on Wednesday morning, when, at seven o'clock, Tropmann was executed for the murder of the Kinck family. During the night Tropmann rose to write a letter to his family. In the morning the cries of the crowd outside the prison announced to him that the time of his execution had arrived, and he was warned by the officials that his last hour had come; whereupon he replied, "I am ready." Only twice did he exhibit any signs of weakness: first, when he felt the cold edge of the scissors used to cut away his hair; and the second time, when he saw the guillotine. However, he quickly recovered his firmness, and ascended the steps of the scaffold alone. From the time of his leaving the prison he never uttered a word. There were not more than 10,000 persons present, and there was no disorder.

A boy was burnt to death, and two men were injured, by a fire at an oil and colourman's in Aldersgate-street, on Saturday.

The Channel Islands are to be put in telegraphic communication with England, instead of being dependent on France.

The *Pioneer* states that sulphur fields have been discovered in Sumatra of the best quality and in large quantity.

Mr. Samuel Holland was returned on Saturday for Merionethshire by a majority of 645 over Col. Tottenham, the Conservative candidate.

M. Raspail is seriously ill, and his recovery is said to be doubtful. He is suffering from pneumonia.

Only seven people were slaughtered in the streets of London last week by being run over by horses or carriages. Nine infants were suffocated.

A Yorkshire farmer is said to have died from hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog a year ago, but no symptoms of infection appeared till a few days since.

It is stated that in less than three months the Metropolitan district railway from Westminster-bridge to Cannon-street will be opened. There will be stations at Charing-cross, Norfolk-street, and Blackfriars.

A compromise has been effected in the Saurin *v.* Starr and Kennedy case. The plaintiff receives back the £300 she paid when she joined the Sisterhood of Mercy, and each party pays its own costs. The total cost of the case will be near £8,000.

A Living Indeed!—It is noted in the *Maidstone Journal* that the Rev. J. H. Hall, incumbent of Knockholt, near Sevenoaks, after twenty-six years' ministry in the Church of England, fifteen of which have been spent in his present incumbency, enjoys a net income of £29 15s. 6d. a year. A grant of £100 has just been offered to Mr. Hall by the trustees of a charity, upon the condition that the governors of Queen Ann's Bounty will grant a similar amount.

The Court.—The Queen is at Osborne.—The Prince and Princess of Wales gave a ball to a select party at Gunton Hall on Friday evening. During their stay at Gunton the Prince and Princess of Wales made a hurried visit to the neighbouring watering-place of Cromer, with which they expressed themselves much pleased. The Prince left for Marlborough House on Monday. His Royal Highness was expected to visit Lord Fitzhardinge at Berkeley Castle on Tuesday. The inhabitants of Stroud and Berkeley crowded to give the Prince a welcome, but he did not arrive, and great disappointment was felt.

The Paris Homicide.—Since Saturday things in Paris have much calmed down. The troops have been sent back to the barracks, and the citizens have successfully exerted themselves to prevent any disturbance. The *Patrie* says Prince Pierre Bonaparte in his examination "related the facts of the affray with the greatest tranquillity and precision, and, in conclusion, expressed the deepest regret for the passion, to which he had surrendered himself, and the sanguinary consequences resulting from it. 'I had been grievously insulted,' added he, 'and, besides, I did no more than defend my life, which was seriously menaced.' On the other hand, M. de Fonvielle, in presence of the magistrate, was so violent and excited that M. Bernier did not think it right to confront him with the prisoner." The Princess declared to the Procureur-Impérial that—

> Her husband had been deeply affected by the event; that at first he did not think he had killed M. Noir, and that, when he had become certain of his death, his mind seemed overwhelmed with the probable embarrassment which the event would cause to the Emperor. The Prince had left Autend to give himself up as prisoner at the Conciergerie.

The *Figaro* says that the "demonstration" of Wednesday cost £27,000 to the workmen who went out "to play." The receipts of the theatres decreased £1,720; £40,000 is taken as the loss of general trade; and then, adding the expenses of the movement of troops, we cannot put the whole cost of the day at less than £80,000. Rochefort is said to be very unpopular. He is not a man, says one writer; and the French like a man. The *Constitutionnel* bitterly upbraids him for his conduct. Rochefort is to be prosecuted. Although no serious disturbances have taken place this week, crowds have filled the streets singing revolutionary songs, and making other demonstrations. On Tuesday evening some 400 individuals stationed themselves near the Palais Bourbon, shouting "Vive Rochefort," "Vive la Republique," "A bas Ollivier." This crowd was dispersed by the sergents-de-ville, but assembled again in the Rue d'Aboukir, in front of the office of the *Marseillaise*, uttering the same cries as before. Another group, numbering about 200 persons, traversed the Rue St. Denis vociferating seditious cries:

> At about 11 p.m. a crowd, principally composed of lads and children, passed along the Boulevard Montmartre, singing the "Marseillaise," and shouting "Vive Rochefort." Some of the passers-by and neighbouring tradesmen quickly dispersed them with sticks. At midnight cavalry patrols traversed the Boulevards at a walking pace, and the sergents-de-ville dispersed any groups that had collected. It is said that the trial of M. Rochefort will come off on Saturday (to-day) before the Correctional Tribunal of Paris.

The Bishop of Carlisle will not hold any general visitation of the clergy this year.

Mr. Charles Barry has been sworn in as Attorney-General for Ireland.

The Bishop of St. Asaph (Dr. Vowles Short) has resigned.

Meetings on the educational question are being held in several places.

There are between seven and eight hundred persons out of work at Exeter.

A reduction in the British army is spoken of to the extent of 10,000 combatants.

Steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of the miners' disturbances in South Yorkshire.

Three persons were killed on Saturday at Burrington, North Devon, by the fall of a chimney.

It appears from the *Garden Oracle* that six hundred new varieties of flowers have been "bred" during the past year.

The cost of collecting the Customs' revenue of the United Kingdom is enormous. Half of the 132 custom-houses are a loss to the country.

In Ceara (the Brazils) thirty-three slave children were emancipated on the Emperor's birthday.

A murderous, but not fatal, attack was made on a warder of the Devon county gaol on Sunday by a prisoner.

The foreign news of the week is generally unimportant with the exception of the Paris intelligence, given elsewhere.

Dr. Rowland Williams, one of the authors of *Essays and Reviews*, died at Broadchalke on Tuesday of bronchitis. He had been ill only a few days.

Sir Sydney Waterlow and Sir Francis Lycett have consented to refer their chances of election for Southwark to the arbitration of five members of Parliament.

On Tuesday evening the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained the Aldermen and the principal officers of the Corporation at the Mansion House.

Six miners had a narrow escape from death in a coal-pit at Dundyvan, near Glasgow, on Saturday. The roof of the doorheads of one of the seams fell in, and a mass of rubbish buried the men for several hours. They were all uninjured with one exception.

Ireland.—Affairs in Ireland do not at all improve. Threatening letters and notices warning tenants not to pay rent are exciting alarm in Westmeath and other counties. The attempt to intimidate is not confined to landlords and agents, but it is extended to other classes.

A Heavy Failure.—A first sitting in the London Court of Bankruptcy has taken place before Mr. Registrar Hazlitt under the bankruptcy of Herbert Barry, described as a financial agent, of the Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, and previously of Moscow, in Russia, and of 57, Old Broad-street. The bankrupt attributes his failure to his connection with limited companies which turned out to be of no value, and to the liabilities consequent thereon. His liabilities are stated at between £40,000 and £50,000.

The Government and the Volunteers.—In several parts of the country, as well as in London, the new arrangements proposed by the Government for the Volunteer services are meeting with great opposition. At Edinburgh a committee has been appointed to consider the points submitted by the War Office. At the Tavistock Hotel, the Volunteer Engineers have met to discuss the subject. They consider that they have exceptional grounds for an increase of the capitation grant, inasmuch as the wear and tear of their uniforms are greater than in any other branch of the service.

The Countess of Derwentwater.—There was a demonstration on Saturday at Consett, Durham, in favour of the lady who styles herself Countess of Derwentwater and Baroness Langley. Some stock, amounting to £250, had been seized by her orders for rent alleged to be due to the Countess. An attempt to recover possession of the stock was a failure. The Countess drove to Consett, attired in an antique dress, a military cloak, and a bonnet with tall waving plume, and carrying a sword. She was received by the populace with the greatest enthusiasm and the heartiest congratulations.

Murder in Finsbury.—A young needlewoman has been found murdered in Finsbury:—

> The murderer was a night-porter at an hotel—a young man said to be a Swiss; the victim, an unfortunate woman, named Cecilia Aldridge, whom he had secretly introduced into the house. There he seems to have infuriated an already intoxicated brain by stolen drink, and to have got into a quarrel with the woman. Then there appears to have been a desperate fight, ending in the woman's death. Her head and face were shockingly battered, either by means of an empty bottle or a heavy candlestick. Those were the weapons employed on either side.

The murdered woman had lodged at 54, Flower and Dean-street, Spitalfields, and had always conducted herself very quietly. She used to go out every night at seven, to see her friends, she said, and return at two in the morning. Amongst the other lodgers she was always known by the name of "Sissy." In the house she bore the character of being a quiet, inoffensive, sober woman. She hardly ever spoke to any one. She told one person that she was thirty-two years of age. The friends of Spinas, the supposed murderer, are making arrangements and collecting evidence for his defence.

Singular Discovery of Weapons.—On Tuesday as three men were passing a portion of the fortifications at Sheerness, which separates the inner and outer moats, they found in one of the loopholes a pistol and a dagger. On searching further they discovered in other loopholes another pistol and dagger, two boxes containing caps, a canister containing powder, and a cross belt with a black pouch attached, similar to that worn in the American army. All the above were handed to police-sergeant Noakes, and a rigid search has been instituted for the purpose of discovering for what purpose and by whom the weapons had been placed where they were found. On the daggers are engraved American inscriptions of a patriotic description. The extraordinary part of the affair is that the articles were left in view of every passer-by, and were lying within a hundred yards of a sentry.

The two men charged with being implicated in the murder of a gamekeeper on the estate of the Mahrajah Dhuleep Singh have been committed for trial.

The *Temps* speaks in high terms of M. Pierre Schaken, whose death it records. M. Schaken was engaged in the construction of several of the leading French railways; and some of his works (the *Temps* says) will remain models of their kind.

Norwich Municipal Bribery.—The charges against the two persons, Freestone and Ellis, accused of being concerned in municipal bribery at Norwich in November, were further gone into on Tuesday, and both defendants were committed for trial.

A licensed lodging-house keeper has been fined forty shillings and costs by the Newcastle magistrates for omitting to give notice to the inspector that a person living in his house had been attacked by fever. The prosecution was brought under the 9th regulation of the "Lodging-house Act."

The ship *Kenilworth* was wrecked on Saturday at the entrance to Cardigan Bay. Eight of the crew were rescued by the Barmouth lifeboat. The captain (Allen), chief and second officers, and seventeen of the crew were drowned.

Messrs. Collard and Collard's pianoforte manufactory, Regent's-park, took fire on Saturday morning. The damage is serious, though many thousand pounds' worth of property was saved by the men of the Salvage Corps covering the instruments.

The Purchase of the Telegraphs.—It is understood that the Bank of England, with a view to public convenience, are willing to make advances in anticipation of the distribution of the money now in course of accumulation for payment of the purchase of the telegraphs, towards the end of the month.

MR. HARRISON'S CONCERT.

Duetto—"Crudel, perche"—Nozze di Figaro"	*Mozart.*
Aria—"Udite o rustici"—Elisir d'Amore"	*Donizetti.*
Terzetto—"Gratias agimus"—"Messe Solennelle"	*Rossini.*
Grand Scena—"Com è bello"—"Lucrezia Borgia"	*Donizetti.*
Aria—"Per la Gloria"	*Buononcini.*
Cavatina—"O luce di quest"—"Linda di Chamouni"	*Donizetti.*
Romanza—"Spirito Gentil"—"La Favorita"	*Donizetti.*
Fantasia—(Pianoforte)—"I Puritani"	*Mattei.*
Duetto—"Giorno d'orrere"—"Semiramide"	*Rossini.*
Grand Scena—"Adelaide" (by desire)	*Beethoven.*
Terzetto—"Protegga" "Don Giovanni"	*Mozart.*
Terzetto—"Le faccio un inchino"—"Matrimonio Segreto"	*Cimarosa.*
New Song—"Evening Song"	*Blumenthal.*
Lieder— "Nachstuck"	*Schubert.*
"Wildmung"	*Schuman.*
Valse—(by desire)—"L'Ardita"	*Arditi.*
Ballad—"The Pilgrim of Love"	*Bishop.*
Duetto—"Pronta io son"—"Don Pasquale"	*Donizetti.*
Grand Valse—Pianoforte—(by desire)	*Mattei.*
Cavatina—"Una voce poco fa"—"Il Barbiere di Sivíglia"	*Rossini.*
Aria Buffa—"Le Tambour-Major"—"Le Caid"	*A. Thomas.*
Quartette—"Gira gira"—"Marta"	*Flotow.*

A most enterprising *entrepreneur*, Mr. Harrison has rarely provided for the musical public so rare a treat as that which he afforded them on Wednesday evening, when the Birmingham Town Hall was thronged by a fashionable audience, who, we may safely say, enjoyed to the utmost the entertainment, albeit they were again doomed to be disappointed by Mr. Sims Reeves. The less one expects from this capricious public favourite the better, as was sufficiently demonstrated on Wednesday; for although Mr. Reeves had, it was understood, promised to appear, a telegram was received from him in the morning stating his inability to sing, and Mr. Harrison lost no time in making the information known. It is but fair to the other vocalists to say that the audience bore the absence of Mr. Reeves with heroic fortitude, and that in the plethora of entertainment that gentleman was scarcely missed. Mdlles. Titiens, Vanzini, and Scalchi; Signors Della Rocca and Tagliafico, and Herr Stockhausen, as vocalists; with Signor Tito Mattei as pianist, and Signor Bevignani as the excellent conductor and unsurpassed accompanist—this was an array of talent, brilliant enough to satisfy the most exacting patron. There is little to call for criticism when the artists include the best that the operatic world can furnish, and the programme consists of some of the most-liked selections from the works of such composers as Beethoven, Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Flotow, Schuman, and Schubert, to say nothing of Buononcini, Bishop, Ambroise, Thomas, and Arditi. We have never heard Mdlle. Titiens in better voice; the incomparable *prima donna* sang as gloriously as she ever did, and met with a reception which must have surprised even her. In its way the welcome she received was not less sincere, though it may have been less demonstrative, than that accorded her in Hamburgh the other day; and when gracefully responding to an encore of Arditi's waltz "L'Ardita," Mdlle Titiens substituted "The Minstrel Boy," the concession was most thoroughly appreciated. Another notable success was the rendering of Cimarosa's terzetto from the "Matrimonio Segreto," which gave the three ladies an opportunity of displaying their dramatic abilities. Encored in Donizetti's cavatina, Mdlle. Vanzini sang "Only for one," a modern ballad which has gained some amount of popularity. Mdlle. Scalchi was encored in the cavatina from "Il Barbière," and Signor Tito Mattei in his valse. Signor Della Rocca and Herr Stockhausen were well received in all they did; and the concert altogether was one of the best that we have ever heard in Birmingham. The programme, which is printed above, was necessarily altered, owing to the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves; Herr Stockhausen singing "Adelaide," for which Mr. Reeves had been set down.

THE FATALITY AT THE BRISTOL THEATRE.

The shocking accident at the New Theatre, Park-row, Bristol, on the 27th ult., which was fully reported in this journal on January 1, has attracted so much melancholy interest in all parts of the country that this week we give an illustration of the scene outside the theatre doors at the time of the disaster. As was previously stated, the pit and gallery entrance slopes considerably; when, therefore, a rush is made to get into the theatre, the pressure is so great on those in front as to be unbearable. On the first night of the new pantomime one of these "ugly rushes" is almost certain to take place, although no accident had happened until Boxing-day, 1869. In the early part of the evening a crowd of expectant sight-seers assembled in front of the entrance to the pit and gallery; those in the rear pressed fiercely upon the people in front; there was much shrieking and moaning for a few minutes; a cry of "Fire!" and before the prompter's bell had rung, eighteen bodies, dead, nearly crushed beyond identification, were taken up, and laid out in the refreshment room of the theatre! A more tragic occurrence at the holiday season we do not remember.

Out of this disaster, however, some good may come, though it is a terrible penalty to pay for it. Attention has been directed to the narrow entrances of many theatres, and the subject is receiving, we trust, the consideration of architects and managers. In Birmingham, as we took occasion to point out recently, the entrances to both theatres are excellent.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

In preceding numbers we have published the portraits of M. Emile Olliver, the Minister of Justice, and other members of the new French Ministry. This week we complete the list of the Cabinet with the following portraits:—

Count Napoleon Daru, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was born at Paris in 1807. The successor of the Prince of Le Tour d'Auvergne is the son of the celebrated historian and statesman, whose name is connected with the reign of Napoleon I. That Emperor stood god-father at his christening, and the Empress Josephine godmother. He was sent to the polytechnic school, and was afterwards admitted in the artillery, and served for some time in Algeria. In 1834, he entered the House of Peers by hereditary right, and directed his whole attention to public affairs. In 1847, Count Daru resigned his captaincy in the artillery. After the revolution of February the electors of Manche named him deputy of the Constituent-Assembly and the Legislative Assembly. He was vice-president of these assemblies at the time of the *coup d'Etat*, and suffered several days detention at Vincennes. Since that time he has for the most part lived a private life. He was returned at the last elections, however, as deputy of the fourth circumscription of Manche. His opponent was M. René of Tocqueville. M. Daru is an officer of the Legion of Honour. In 1860 he was elected a member of the Academy of the Sciences, moral and political.

M. Chevandier of Valdrome, Secretary of State for the Home Department, was born in 1810. He is a member of the Imperial Society of Agriculture, and so far he has devoted his attention principally to the study of chemistry and agricultural questions. In 1860 he was made a knight of the Legion of Honour. The successor of M. Forcade La Roquette is deputy of the third circumscription of Meurthe.

M. Buffet, to whom M. Magne gives place, was born at Mirecourt (Vosges) in 1818. Before the revolution of February he practised as an advocate, but was subsequently sent by the department of the Vosges to the Constituent-Assembly. On the 29th December, 1848, the president of the Republic named him Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in place of M. Bixio; he resigned the following year. He was re-elected a representative of the Legislative Assembly, and was, for a short time, in the cabinet formed by M. Leon Faucher. He retired into private life after December, 1851. He was elected deputy of the Vosges in 1863, and re-elected in 1869.

The Marquis of Talhouët, Minister of Public Works, was born at Paris in 1819. In 1855 he presented himself to the electors of the third circumscription of Sarthe, and is still their representative.

M. Louvet, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, was born at Sanmur in 1805. He is a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

M. Segris, Minister of Public Instruction, takes the place of M. Bourbeau. He was born at Poitiers in 1811. M. Segris is an officer of the Legion of Honour.

Marshal Vaillant, Minister of the Emperor's Household, was born at Dijon in 1790. He served as captain in the Russian campaign. He was also at Ligny and Waterloo, where he displayed great bravery. He was elevated to the dignity of Marshal of France, on December 11, 1855. Mr. Vaillant has been a Grand Cross Knight of the Legion of Honour since 1849.

Admiral Rigault of Genouilly, who holds the portfolio of naval affiairs, was born at Rochefort in 1807. In 1848 he was made a post-captain. In 1854 he was elevated to the position of a rear-admiral, and commanded a detachment of the marines at Sebastopol. In 1858 he was named a vice-admiral, and was promoted to the dignity of admiral by decree on the 27th January, 1864. Admiral Rigault is a Grand Cross Knight of the Legion of Honour.

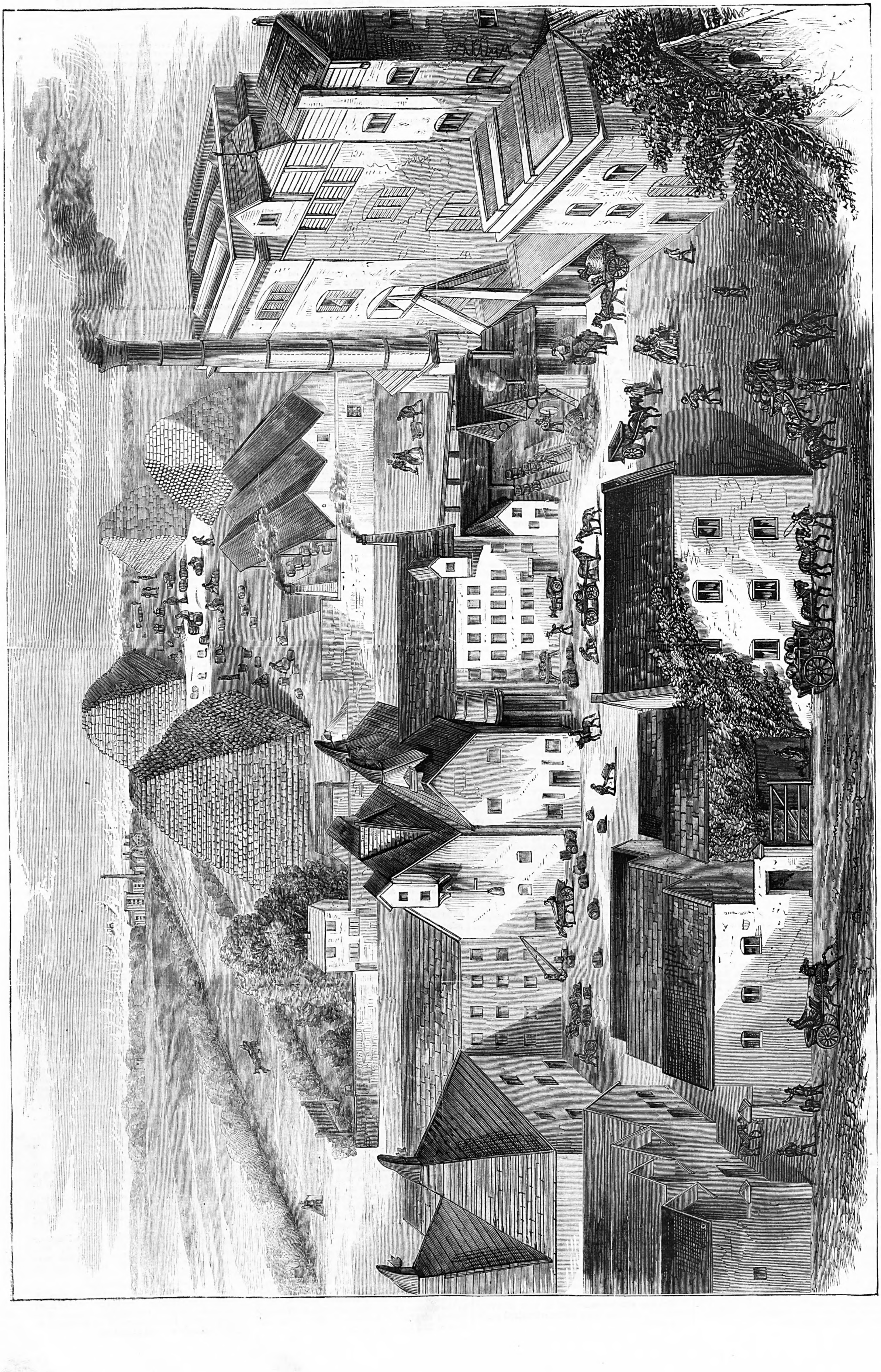
General Le Bœuf is the Minister of War.

M. Maurice Richard, Minister of Fine Arts, a new character in political history, was born in January, 1832.

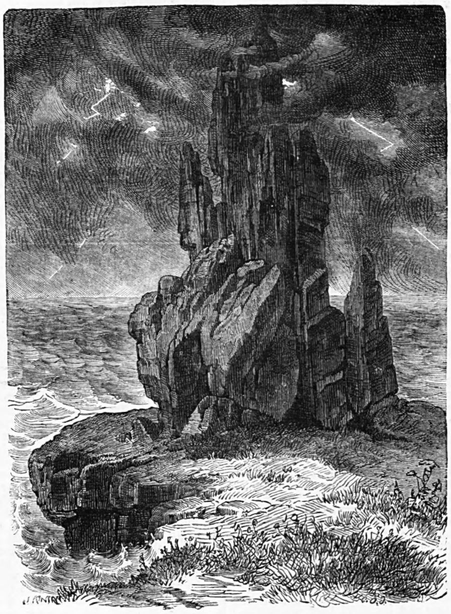
M. de Parieu, who holds the presidency of the Conseil d'Etat, was born at Aurillac in 1845. M. Parieu is a grand officer of the Legion of Honour.

We also give an illustration of the Emperor receiving the oath of the ministers, who will be recognised from the larger size portraits given in our present number, and in preceding papers.

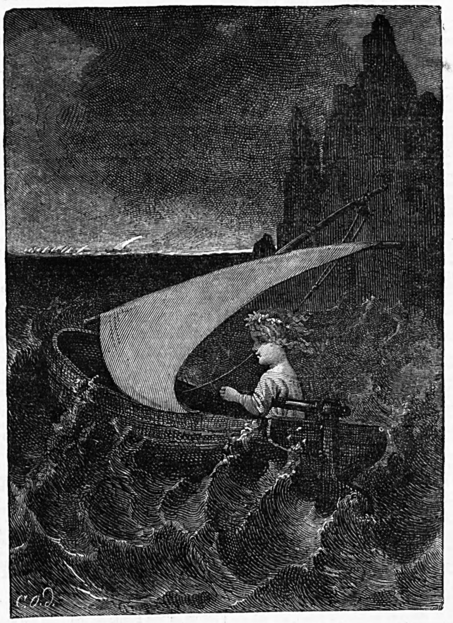
The deaths registered last week in the English cities and towns showed the annual rate of mortality to be 35 per 1,000 in Nottingham, 31 in Leicester, 30 in Birmingham, 28 in Sheffield, 24 in Wolverhampton, and 21 in Hull.



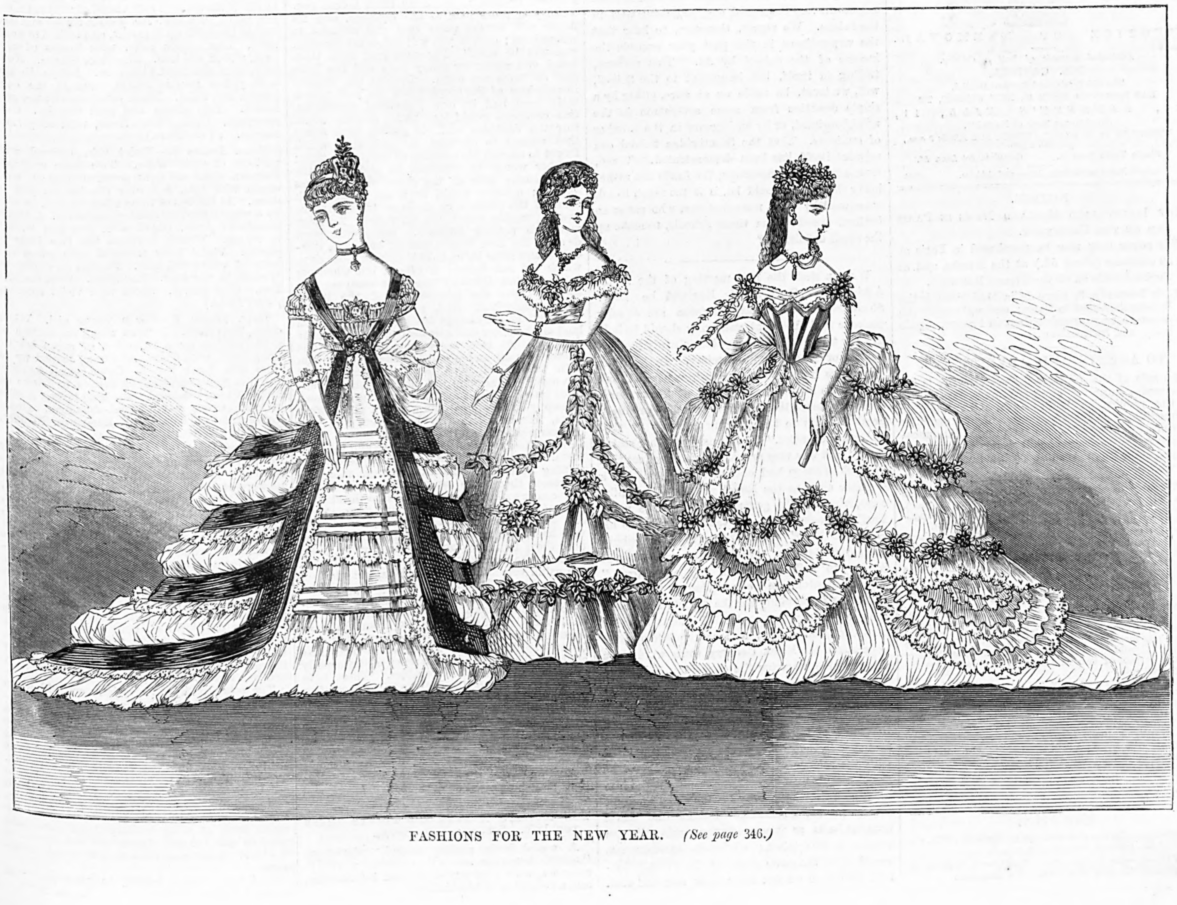
MESSRS. FLOWER AND SONS' BREWERY, STRATFORD-ON-AVON. *(See page 342.)*



"A rough rocky island rising straight out of the midst of a roaring sea."



"I found that all, without exception, came into a belt of storms and darkness before they reached the happy land."



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR. *(See page 346.)*

SPECIAL Advertisements inserted in this column at special rates.

NOTICE.

IN consequence of numerous Complaints from private persons and the trade, that the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is only to be obtained with difficulty in London, Messrs. Hatton & Co., beg to state that they have OPENED a SPECIAL PUBLISHING OFFICE, at 33, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, under the management of Mr. R. Watson. Henceforth, all the London Agents will be supplied from that office every Friday morning, and the paper can be had there at all times. Country agents may now order through *all the London Agents*, in the same way that they order their London papers.

HEAD OFFICES: 108, NEW STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

ROBERT COCKS and Co.'s "MUSICAL BOX."—A Caprice for the Pianoforte. Composed by L. LIEBICH, and performed by him at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover Square, and twice encored. Free by post for 19 stamps.

THE SMILES OF THOSE WE LOVE. Song. By W. F. TAYLOR.—"One of the most elegant songs of the day." "The air is simplicity itself and will be caught up at once, and the pretty and harmless character of the words renders it peculiarly appropriate as a song for the home circle." —Vide Orchestra. Free by post for 19 stamps.

THE elegant Ballad of the Day is FAR AWAY. By Miss M. LINDSAY (Mrs. J. W. Bliss.) The same for the Pianoforte, by CARL LUINI. Each free by post for 19 stamps.

MR. W. T. WRIGHTON'S NATIONAL SONGS and BALLADS are, "Thy Voice is Near," "The Music of her Voice," "In the Downhill of Life," and "Morn on the Meadow."—Each free by post for 19 stamps.

THE HOLY FAMILY. Sacred Melodies. Arranged by W. H. CALLCOTT for the pianoforte. Solos, 5s. each; duets, 6s. each; accompaniments for flute, violin, and violoncello, 1s. each. Complete in 12 books. Each book free at half-price, with an extra stamp for postage.

LONDON:
ROBERT COCKS & CO., NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
May be had everywhere. [515

Second Edition, Free by Post for four Stamps.

OXYGEN.—By GEORGE BARTH, 26, Duke Street, Bloomsbury.
"A very clever and useful little treatise on the power of Oxygen as nature's remedy in disease."—JOHN BULL. [422

NEW SONGS, by E. LAND.—LA GITANA (Joyous and Free.) Valse Cavatina. "Brilliant but not difficult, showy and effective, encored nightly," 24 Stamps from LAMBORN COCK, 63, New Bond Street. Also, "Whisp'rings from my Angel Love!" Sung by Mr. Vernon Rigby, with immense success, 19 Stamps, from DUNCAN DAVISON, 244, Regent Street, and all Musicsellers. [479

SOUTH OF ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE for YOUNG LADIES, HARRAGE HALL, ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE. A select number of Pupils received at this establishment, the constant aim and solicitude of the Principal being to combine the comforts of a cheerful home and maternal care with the intellectual advantages and order of a carefully-regulated school. The system of education, based on christian principles, is comprehensive and efficient, calculated to render the pupils observant, amiable, and intelligent. The course of general tuition comprises superior instruction in the higher branches of history, science, and literature, with unusual facilities for the acquirements of the various accomplishments. The house is spacious, airy, and detached, pleasantly situated with extensive gardens, shrubbery, and pleasure grounds. The salubrity of the situation has long been proved and acknowledged. A very kind, cheerful home afforded to children from India, of whom the entire charge in every way is taken: reference to parents now in India. The domestic arrangements are conducted in a very liberal manner, the health and comfort of the pupils being the primary consideration. A Parisienne and German governesses resident. Ladies prepared for efficient governesses; also, for Queen's College, and Oxford and Cambridge examinations. Railway Station five minutes' walk. For terms, which are inclusive, address, The Principal, Harrage Hall, Romsey. Studies will commence (D.V.) on January 22nd, 1870. The Principal is in London, and would see any ladies desirous of sending their daughters who are not at Waterloo Station to come in charge of a governess to Romsey. [496

W. T. BELCHER, Mus. Bac., Oxon, Fell. Coll. Org., Professor of the Organ, Pianoforte, Singing, and the Theory of Music, 3, Hampstead Road, and at 23, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [403

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
Established upwards of Half a Century.
MR. GABRIEL,
The Old-Established Resident Dentist,
HAS REMOVED FROM 65, NEW STREET, TO
11, *BENNETT'S HILL*, 11,
(Next to the Bank of England),
WHERE HE IS IN DAILY ATTENDANCE FROM 9 *a.m.*, *UNTIL* 6 *p.m.*
Single Teeth from 5s. Complete Set from £5.
Notice particularly Name and Address. [434

NOTICE.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS IN PARIS AND ON THE CONTINENT.

This paper may now be purchased in Paris at 50 centimes (about 5d.) at the Kiosks, and at the bookstalls on all the French Railways.

M. de Bernardy, 8, Place de la Madeléine, is the Wholesale Agent in Paris; and will supply the paper to regular subscribers in France, Spain Italy, and Switzerland.

TO AGENTS AND ADVERTISERS.

The sale of the *Illustrated Midland News* is increasing largely. The permanent character of the publication makes it a most desirable medium for Advertisements. As we can only devote a limited space to public announcements, advertisers should send their orders not later than Wednesday at noon in each week.

Wholesale Agents for THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS are being appointed in every town in the kingdom. Terms, and full particulars, may be learnt on application at the Office, 108, New Street, Birmingham.

P. O. Orders to be made payable to the Publishers. Cheques to be crossed Birmingham and Midland Bank.

Communications and orders for Papers or Advertisements should be addressed to the *Publishers*, and not to the Editor.

All remittances will be acknowledged on a printed receipt form, *and no other receipt will be held valid.*

Advertisements are inserted at the rate of 6d. per line up to 25 lines; from 25 up to 50 lines, 9d. per line; after 50, 1s. per line. Space will be measured as lines. Scale and measure may be had on application at the Office. Double columns charged at one-fourth more than the rate of two columns. No extra charge for approved cuts.

Mr. Allday is our only authorised Advertisement Canvasser in Birmingham.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are inserted at a uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

The Trade will be supplied with this paper in London by Messrs. Smith, 186, Strand; by Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria Lane, E.C.; and at the London Publishing Office of the Paper, at 33, Essex-street, Strand. Annual Subscribers can be supplied free by post direct from the Office, 108, New Street, at 17s. 6d. a year.

BIRTHS.

GABRIEL.—On the 21st inst., at 11, Bennett's Hill, the wife of Mr. Gabriel, dentist, of a son.

WALKER.—On the 19th inst., Mrs. Severn Walker, of Stephenson-terrace, Worcester, of a daughter.

GRATIS SUPPLEMENT.

ON SATURDAY NEXT, JANUARY 29,
Will be presented with the
ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS
A FULL-PAGE ENGRAVING,
Specially drawn by F. ELTZE, entitled—
A WINTER'S MORNING:—COMING HOME FROM CHURCH.

Early Orders should be given to the publisher for extra copies.

The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, JAN. 22, 1870.

THE writer of the city article in the *Times* looks rather gloomily upon the present position of affairs, taking for a text the payment of £5,715,000, which will have to be made for the telegraphs in a few days' time. He doubts if the full effect likely to be produced by those payments is yet sufficiently estimated by the public, and continues—

> Although there has been more buoyancy of late in foreign securities, the more solid class of investments represented by the English funds and railway stocks continue to manifest a degree of inactivity such as is rarely witnessed except when there are financial or political contingencies weighing upon the public mind. Considering that at present, so far from contingencies of this kind being visible, all the Powers of the world seem to be bent upon peace, in order to develop their mineral resources, and that commerce in all quarters has for three years past been more free from speculation than at any former period, the only explanation of the existing state of feeling must, unhappily, still be found in the fact that the discouragement from the panic of 1866 has been but very partially overcome. This slowness of recovery is greatly to be regretted from the future danger which it involves. Every well-considered venture now entered upon would enjoy the fullest conditions that would promote success; but, instead of selecting the sober moment, all our operators will start together with immoderate courage the moment a revival shall become palpable, and it will then take but a year or two to work out a repetition of the old experience of inflation and disaster.

There was such a general "hitting" of speculators in the Panic period that we are disposed to believe that investors will in future exercise more caution than they have hitherto done; and we cannot think that 1870, or 1871, will witness a repetition of the speculative undertakings which characterised 1865-66.

AMONGST the numerous Schools of Art in the Midlands, the establishment at Stourbridge has always held a foremost position. The School has produced both engravers and artists of high excellence; it adopted the revised regulations at an early period; and its career has been in most respects a very successful one, promising well in the future. We regret, therefore, to hear that the expenditure in the past year exceeds the income of the School by £8. This amount, trifling in itself, but important to the School, will, we trust, be made up at once, either by a single donation from some art-patron in the neighbourhood, or by an increase in the number of students. That the Stourbridge School can support itself has been demonstrated. When, from adverse circumstances, the funds are rather lower than they should be, is it too much to ask some wealthy local manufacturer, who reaps an indirect benefit from these Schools, to make up the small deficiency.?

WHERE shall the 1871 meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England be held? Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton are equally desirous that the great gathering should be held in their town. Shrewsbury has already had the honour of receiving the Society. In 1845 the Show was held in the Shropshire capital, and Earl Powis stated on Saturday, at Shrewsbury, that he believed that the meeting "had produced great benefits to the farming interests of that and other counties." His lordship further stated that "to it was very probably owing the fact that Shropshire sheep had obtained for themselves a separate class at the Royal meetings." Whilst concurring in the general tenour of the noble Earl's remarks, we must take exception to his expressed belief that "they (the Shrewsbury people) could show greater inducements to the Society to visit them than any other town." Wolverhampton, in our opinion, is equally eligible as Shrewsbury for the Society's meeting. Easy of access, a centre of manufacturing industry, and having a large, public-spirited population, the Black Country town would be a very suitable place for the exhibition. Putting aside other considerations, a visit from the Royal Agricultural Society to Wolverhampton would be productive of vast benefit to the teeming thousands of the district; who, probably for the first time in their lives, would become acquainted with the science of agriculture as developed at the Society's meeting. They would see the iron for which they have toiled and moiled wrought in the newest mechanical designs—the metal brought back, as it were, to the virgin soil from whence it was taken; whilst the agriculturists would enjoy the novel sight of the great industrial field from whence come their iron and coal. Thus the advantage would be mutual; and if only on this account, we should be glad to hear that the Council of the Society have resolved to come to Wolverhampton for their Exhibition of 1871.

LITERATURE.

THE ROCKY ISLAND, AND OTHER SIMILITUDES. By Samuel Wilberforce, D.D. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

Apart from the Pilgrims' Progress we know of no more exquisite and touching piece of allegory than the Bishop of Oxford's Rocky Island. In brief this is the dream—a rough rocky island rising straight out of the midst of a roaring sea, beating round a black steep mountain. Upon the top of the rock rested dark, gloomy clouds, into the midst of which the mountain cast forth ever and anon red flames; peals of thunder, and flashes of lightning heightened the grandeur and terror of the picture. Below, upon a sandy beach, troups of children disported themselves, in ignorance of the danger which constantly threatened them. Suddenly appeared in the midst of the throng a noble, king-like man, who warned the little ones of their peril. "Here," he said "all play turns into death, the burning mountain, and the forked lightning, and the dreadful breath of the hailstorm; these sweep down over all who stay here and slay them; and if you stay here for these childish pleasures of yours you will all perish." The children looked afraid, and asked how they were to avoid the peril. One whispered to another "where shall we go? How shall we get over that sea? We can never swim across it, had we better not go back and play till the time comes for us to die?" The kind prophet, however, led them round a high rough rock, to where the calm waves of the sea ran up into a little bay, upon the white sand of which, only a gentle ripple broke with a very pleasant sound. This bay was full of boats—small painted boats, with just room in each for one person. In each boat was a small compass to guide them, and, at the stern, a little sail as white as snow, on which was a bright red cross flapping in the gentle sea breeze. To each of the children was allotted one of these vessels, which would bear them over the waves to a bright and beautiful land, where the trees are always green, the leaves eyer fresh; where the fruit ripened every month, and the very leaves upon the trees were healing. Their only precaution was to be always setting their face towards the happy land they sought for. They were to leave behind them all the trifles that pleased them here, and have perfect faith in the little compass placed in each boat for their guide. "This," he said, "will always show you which way to steer. You are to follow me, for I shall always be before you on the waters. But, often when the darkness of the night comes on, or the thick mist seethes up from the waves' brim, or, a calm has fallen upon you, so that your boat has stood still; often, at such times as these, you may not be able to mark my track before you. Then you must look to the compass, and its finger will always point true and straight to where I am; and, if you will follow me through, you will be safe." The good man gave them bread and water for many days and the little fleet of boots set forth. Despite the explicit instructions of the prophet and the leader, each little boat had its own individual difficulties. One occupant would look back; another would fear the darkness and the sudden little storm that seemed to obstruct it, and then would forget to consult his compass at the proper time; another would be tempted to return by the bright-sunny look of the shore which he was leaving; another would be found toying with some of the trinkets or shells or trifles that he had improperly secreted in his vessel. All these met with varying fortunes. Some even went down in the dark waters, and all had some difficulties and some helps individually of their own, which did not belong to others, but whenever darkness and difficulty came the compass was always true—the instructions of the leader always efficacious. And, now and then, to the most patient and earnest navigator, the promised land on the other side gleamed pleasantly in the distance. At last, those who had eaten the master's bread and steered straight after him with faith, and hope, and patience, passed through the darkness and the danger, and entered into the bright light beyond. A great crowd of happy children, parents who had gone before them, friends whom they had loved, and holy persons whose names they had long known, these all lined the banks waiting to receive and welcome them. And amidst these, moved up and down, shining forms of beautiful beings, who also welcomed them, who sang, and bore the happy new-comer with songs of triumph into the shining presence of the good and gracious king. They saw him who had taken them into his convoy, who had given them their boats, who had been near them in the storm, who had given them light in the darkness, who had helped them in the calm, who had never left them, but who had kept and guided them across the sea, and who now received them to his never-ending rest. This is a fair example of the contents of the Bishop of Oxford's latest work, from the publishers of which we have borrowed the two beautiful illustrations which adorn this first allegory. The work contains seven others equally graceful and instructive parables. There is in none of them any of the dryness that is too often met with in professedly religious books. They are full of graceful and excellent writing, illustrated with admirable wood engravings; and each story has a key in a dialogue that will be found as interesting to the parent as it will be to the child. Those who know the Bishop's "Agathos" will readily endorse any eulogium that may be passed on The Rocky Island and other Similitudes.

THE ROSEATE ANNUAL AND POCKET DIARY FOR 1870. London: N. J. Powell.

A useful little pocket annual, printed on "rosy" toned paper. It includes a ready-reckoner, with a variety of general information, and a collection of illustrations.

FASHION.

[The subjoined article on the Fashions, an Illustration of which, specially drawn for this Paper, appears on another page, is written expressly for the *Illustrated Midland News*. A fashion plate and descriptive text will appear from month to month.]

"*Crinoline is dead!*" is not a cry to be relied upon; for no sooner is it uttered (to the intense gratification of the male population) than our damsels raise their voices louder than ever, and shout with renewed delight, "*Long live Crinoline!*" Thus it is that this much-abused appendage of female attire is continually appearing, disappearing, and re-appearing in every guise which the infinite mind of the *modiste* can invent. To be sure, *steel* is no longer used to encase the human form, and walking tubs are rarely now to be seen; but there is a substitute for steel—viz., horse-hair, or stiff muslin. *Four* stiff muslin skirts are at present required, instead of the old steeled *jupon*, and *each* skirt has the back width flounced from waist down to the hem, which touches or lies upon the ground. Ladies, however, who may object to the trouble and expense of this new arrangement can make a compromise by wearing *half a crinoline*, each steel tied with strings or elastic bands, of about half a yard or three quarters in length. So much for crinoline! *Passons* to other and better things, *i. e.*, to evening dresses, for, of course, that is the topic, *par excellence*, at the present moment; and no wonder, for fairy fingers could never have worked more marvellously than they are doing now. Lace, tulle, and *crêpe de Chine* are the materials most in vogue, although anything may, in reality, be worn in these cosmopolitan days. There is a talk of Egyptian costumes looming in the ever-stirring spheres of Fashion; but more of this anon; "Sufficient for the day is the mode thereof." In the meantime the Spanish dress—jackets, tabs, tassels, mantillas, combs, will wield their sway, and live, reign, and die before Egypt begins to rule us. But let us return to our evening dresses. First of all, and once for all, I must tell you that low bodies are not worn by any *lady* on any occasion excepting for balls. Consequently dinner dresses are made either square or V shape. Some ladies (the Empress herself, for instance,) wear tulle fichus *under* the square body. The V body is usually edged with a lace ruching, which ruching is styled Valois, Médicis, or Stuart, according to width of lace. Pagoda sleeves are also generally worn now, with under sleeves of lace—quite an old fashion revived. *Is* there anything new under the sun? Ladies who still prefer the coat sleeve must wear wide lace ruffs at the wrist, to fall over the hand. The Pagoda is better adapted for evening wear, being more dressy than the coat sleeve; but, on the other hand, the coat sleeve is preferable to the Pagoda for general use. And now, after many turnings, I come to ball dresses. But here my pen stands still, perplexed how to describe the mass of lace, silk, ribbon, flounces, puffs, ruches, and tunics which compose the ball dress of the period. But I will try.

BALL DRESS 1.—Amber silk skirt. Puff round the bottom. Front width trimmed apron fashion, with three flounces of white lace, each flounce being headed with three rows of white satin piping. The remaining widths of skirt puffed to the waist. Long tunic of white tulle, reaching to bottom flounce of under skirt, and puffed up to waist. Between each puff a band of ruby satin ribbon edged with lace. Ruby satin ribbon and lace, laid on the tunic up the front, and tacked to under skirt. Low square body, with braces of ruby satin ribbon and lace. Short lace sleeves. Ruby satin band and short wide sash. Ruby satin bow with yellow rose in centre, worn in the hair, bosom, and waist. Black velvet necklet and gold locket. High gloves and gold bracelet. Gold ear-rings. Curls. High shoes, with ruby satin rosette. (*Vide* Plate.)

BALL DRESS 2.—Violet silk, covered with puffings of violet *crêpe*. Two large scolloped flounces, violet and light green alternately, each edged with lace, fall over the bottom puff of dress. At the top of these a lace flounce, headed by a wreath of violets and green leaves. A double *pannier* of *green*, edged with lace and wreath to match. Wreath between the two puffs of panier. Violet body trimmed with green and folds of white and lace. Flowers on shoulders. Wreath in the hair. Ear-rings. Gold necklet. Fan. High gloves. Shoes with violet rosettes. (*Vide* Plate.)

BALL DRESS 3.—For a young girl. White crêpe, *demi* train. Flounce round the bottom of skirt, headed by a trimming of green leaves. Long tunic, with flounce or fringe, looped up at sides with green leaves. Green leaves forming apron in front, and heading flounce or fringe on tunic. Green band and sash. Full body. Bertha of lace. Green leaves round shoulders. Green leaves wreath in hair. Curls. Ear-rings. Necklet. Bracelet. (*Vide* Plate.)

As already stated, low-neck bodies are only worn on occasions of the greatest ceremony, consequently the dresses above described could not be worn at dinner, concert, or theatre. In fact, Parisian ladies always wear bonnets at theatres, full dress not being considered *comme il faut*, except at the opera, where alone it is permitted. In our next *causérie* I hope to show you some elegant dinner and demi-toilette dresses. For to-day I must content myself with describing a couple of very pretty toilettes as worn by two of the leading *élégantes* of Paris. The first is a pink silk, long train and flounce, beginning at waist and carried down the skirt slantingly, so as to imitate a double dress, open in front, Pannier and sash. Square body, and Pagoda sleeves. Full fichu, *under* body. Lace sleeves. Pink bow in hair. Pink ruche round the neck. Pink bow and rose front of body.

The other dress is a very long emerald green silk skirt. Five small flounces on front width—no trimming on rest of skirt. Over this a white Algerian tunic (the material that white striped Burnous' were made of). This tunic is short in front, but as long as the under-dress behind, opened in front, bound with green silk. The body to match tunic, and made V shape in front. A green ruche round V and lace frill underneath. Pagoda sleeves and lace under-sleeves. Band and sash—sash to loop up the white tunic at sides, making it fall like a long scarf on skirt behind. Green bow and aigrette in the hair. Rosette on shoes to match the under-dress.

And now, ladies, hoping to greet you soon again, I bid you *au revoir*. E. DE B***.

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

The first stone of a new Presbyterian Church was laid on Tuesday at Shrewsbury.

The new Bishop-Designate of Manchester, the Rev. James Fraser, is the son of a native of Bilston.

Mrs. Gough, of Gorsebrook, Willenhall, made her annual distribution of provisions on Monday, to the poor of Short-heath, the New Invention, and Lane-head.

Plough Monday is annually celebrated at Cambridge. Ostensible ploughboys parade the streets in tawdry finery, and solicit alms from the passers-by and from tradesmen.

The Rev. R. B. Langbridge, B.A., curate of Dartford, Kent, formerly pupil of King Edward's School, Birmingham, was, on the 12th instant, from about forty candidates, University graduates, unanimously elected by the trustees head master of the Grammar School, Dartford.

Wolverhampton Poultry, Pigeon, and Dog Show.—It will be seen by advertisement that this show will be held at the Agricultural Hall, Wolverhampton, on February 4, 5, and 7. A first-rate exhibition is expected. The entries close to-day (Saturday).

The late Rev. W. Lewis, vicar of Sedgley, whose death we announced last week, was buried on Saturday at the parish church of that place. A wreath of yellow immortelles was laid on the coffin; and there was a general expression of regret at the loss the parish has sustained. The Rev. G. Body (son-in-law of the deceased) read the Burial Service.

Sudden Death of a Banker.—Mr. G. E. Foster, the well-known banker, died suddenly at Cambridge on Tuesday. The deceased was transacting business at the bank as usual, when he staggered and expired instantly. The deceased, who was a magistrate for the county, was in his 59th year, and much esteemed. The event has cast quite a gloom over the town.

Working Men and the Permissive Bill.—The Permissive Bill is being well discussed at Leicester, where there has been a curious prize competition amongst the working men, ten of whom met publicly to make extemporaneous speeches, setting forth "the best reasons why the Permissive Bill should be the law of the land." The prizes offered were £5, £3, and £2 respectively, and the competitors were—Henry Capey, warehouseman; William Green, elastic weaver; James B. Weston, clicker; Joseph Taylor, carpenter; William Oliver, warehouseman; John Foster, stoker; Eben Taylor, elastic weaver; George Holt, labourer; Elijah Newton, clerk; and Wm. Ford, gardener. The large audience sat through the whole of the ten speeches, and was "much pleased." George Holt, the labourer, carried off the first prize, the two warehousemen securing the second and third.

Opening of the Anstice Memorial Institution, Madeley, Salop.—At a meeting of the Building Committee, held in the club room of the Madeley Institute last week, the report was read and approved. The deed, which was agreed to, will be signed by subscribers of £1 and upwards, who will have the power at annual meetings to choose the managing committee. Each subscriber is to have one vote for each £1 subscribed by him. This very handsome structure, erected in memory of the late John Anstice, Esq., being complete, it was decided to open the building on the 16th of February, by inviting all subscribers to a soiree, each subscriber to have the power to bring a friend. It will be remembered that we illustrated the building several weeks ago. The committee have resolved to present a copy of the picture to every subscriber.

Staffordshire Agricultural Society.—At the annual meeting of this Society at the Swan Hotel, Stafford, on Saturday, Mr. Masfen presided. According to the report, during the past year the society had lost thirteen members by death and forty-four by withdrawal, with subscriptions and arrears (spreading over several years) amounting to £81 9s., and sixteen had given notice of withdrawal. On the other hand sixty-eight new members, subscribing £52 5s., had been elected, and the net loss was four members. The present number of members is 436, whose subscriptions amount to £440 1s. 6d. The gross income of the past year was £1615 1s. 8d., and the expenditure, £1416 19s. 2d., showing an excess of income over expenditure of £198 2s. 6d. The cash balance in hand is £435, in addition to security on bond of £350. A statement of accounts was appended to the report, which was unanimously adopted. The Earl of Harrowby was elected president for the year ensuing.

The Staffordshire Volunteers and the New Regulations.—A large gathering of Volunteer officers assembled at the Judge's House, Stafford, on Saturday, to consider the proposed alterations of the regulations affecting Volunteers. Lord Lichfield, who presided, said the question of efficiency was at the root of the whole matter. If the efficiency was to be the same as in the army they would have no non-efficients left. Mr. Cardwell had put down what he thought was fairly chargeable to the public, and had arrived at his estimate by returns from a considerable number of corps throughout the country. These returns included the First Battalion of Staffordshire, but, as far as he could see, no other battalion of the county. The question was whether these returns were sufficiently reliable to form a correct estimate upon for the whole force. The return from the First Staffordshire Battalion would show a margin on Mr. Cardwell's calculations of something like £20 a company—that was taking the sum paid down as total expenses for the whole battalion, and the sum that would be provided under Mr. Cardwell's regulations. But he confessed he was at a loss to understand this return, for he saw a heavy amount for ranges, and no return for it.—Captain Buchanan and Colonel Hollins explained that nothing had been received for ranges, and the amount paid by the Militia was deducted.—Most of the proposed alterations were objected to; and there was a general expression of opinion that if the grant for efficients were 20s., and for extra-efficients 40s., it would be sufficient. The subject of turning administrative into consolidated battalions was also discussed, and the meeting considered that it was quite impossible in Staffordshire to work the battalions as consolidated battalions.

The state of Birmingham Workhouse is certified by Mr. W. A. Peel, Poor Law Inspector, to be "extremely satisfactory."

The Cheltenham Poor Law Guardians have refused to admit reporters to their meetings, one of them having reported a relief case, which appears to have annoyed the Guardians.

Stourbridge station, on the Great Western Railway is to be improved. A shed, to hold sixteen engines, is being erected, and more accommodation is to be given to the public. Stamber Mill viaduct is to be filled up. It is stated that the directors of the Great Western Railway Company have determined to transfer their locomotive department from Dudley to Stourbridge.

The North Staffordshire Coalfield.—On Monday, at a meeting of mine-owners, held at Stoke-on-Trent, for the purpose of considering the condition of the mines in the Burslem and Tunstall districts, it was decided to employ a mining engineer to investigate and report the extent of the North Staffordshire coal-field affected, and likely to be affected by the accumulation of water, and the probable cost of clearing the whole to a sufficient depth to enable the mines to be worked freely.

Accident on the North-Western Railway.—On Saturday afternoon an accident, which occasioned considerable inconvenience, occurred on the London and North-Western line, midway between Wolverhampton and Stafford. About twelve o'clock an engine-driver and some three or four men were engaged on the down line near Penkridge station shunting a number of loaded ballast waggons. A fast passenger train which leaves Wolverhampton at 12.15, and does not stop between there and Stafford, was nearly due, when just as the waggons were being shunted off the main line the wheels of one of the waggons by some means caught against the points at the crossing, and in a moment it was off the rails, and thrown sideways on the main line. At the same time the passenger train came in sight, and a man was at once sent forward with a red flag to stop its approach. Fortunately the signal was seen, and the train brought to a stand. The passengers got out, and found the overturned waggon on its side. As there is no telegraphic instrument at Penkridge by which assistance could be obtained, the passengers were delayed an hour and twenty minutes.

The Late Collision near Stourbridge.—It will be remembered that the collision on the Stourbridge railway on the 8th of December caused the death of a man named William Tasker. Several other persons were injured. On Monday the Coroner's enquiry into the case was resumed at the Vine Inn, Cradley. Captain Tyler, the Government Inspector, was present, and handed to the Coroner a long report with regard to the accident. He considered there was some excuse for the railway servants, owing to their working under the disadvantage of a rule which it was hardly possible to carry out, and owing to the absence of other appliances which were necessary for safety. The jury found a verdict of manslaughter against Daniel Porter, the guard of the goods train, who gave orders for its being moved out on the main line in front of the express; they censured Marsden, the signalman, and Davis, the yard foreman; and they recommended the railway company to erect a siding signal, worked by a wire from the signal-box.

A Member of Parliament Committed for Libel.—An extraordinary case came before the Burton-on-Trent Petty Sessions on Tuesday; Mr. John Hardy, of Dunstall Hall, and M.P. for South Warwickshire, being charged with having published defamatory libels concerning Mr. J. L. Knight, an auctioneer, land agent, &c., carrying on business in Burton-under-Needwood. Mr. Leech, of Derby, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Motteram, of the Oxford Circuit, was retained to watch the case for the defendant. The prosecutor is a tenant of the defendant's, and on the 8th of December last he appeared as a witness in a case where Mr. Lyon, a magistrate and adjoining landowner, successfully sued Mr. Hardy for £20 damages, for cutting down part of the trees and fence of a plantation at Dunstall, in the previous September. This appeared to have greatly displeased Mr. Hardy, and he wrote to Mr. Knight as follows:—

> Dunstall Hall, Burton-on-Trent, Dec. 17, 1869.
>
> Sir,—As you were not ashamed to lend yourself to bolster up the claims for fictitious damages against me, at the county court, or did not shrink from nearly doubling your former valuation, in order that you might keep pace with the unscrupulous evidence of other persons, so-called respectable, I give you notice that for the future there will be an addition of £12 to the low rent which you now pay for the house and land as my tenant.—Yours, obediently, J. Hardy.
>
> To Mr. Knight.

Mr. Knight being away from home when this letter arrived, Mrs. Knight answered it, and then came the following from Mr. Hardy:—

> Dunstall Hall, Burton-on-Trent, Dec. 20, 1869.
>
> Madam,—As you thought fit to reply to my note, in the absence of Mr. Knight, I address this to you, and mention that had it been important to me whether you paid more or less rent I might with reason have raised it long since.
>
> I take the step now, because your husband combined with others, at the county court at Burton, in a gross fraud upon me, under the pretence of claiming damages. Had he stuck to his original valuation I should not have complained, but he put himself on a level with the other unscrupulous attorneys and witnesses, who swore to damages which they knew were fictitious, because a certain amount had somehow or other to be reached.
>
> I shall keep to my decision as to the rent, unless Mr. Knight affirms that in his judgment the original valuation of £12 1s. 6d., accepted by the plaintiff's attorney as that of a "competent person," amply covers any possible damages, and any sum beyond that is fictitious and a fraud upon the defendant, and regrets that he, with others, aided in such extortion by his evidence.—I remain, yours, &c., J. Hardy.

After an ineffectual endeavour had been made to settle the case, the chairman (Mr. Moseley) said:

> It is with great regret that we come to the decision that we must be obliged to send this to a higher court. We regret it the more that it is a brother magistrate. We feel the position that we occupy, but it is a duty we are bound to perform. Therefore, we call upon Mr. Hardy to enter into his recognisance of £200, and to find two sureties of £100 each, for his appearance to answer the charge at the next Stafford Assizes.

Mr. Motteram applied to the Bench to lessen the sureties, but the Bench declined. Mr. Hardy was then called upon in the usual way, but reserved his defence. He then entered into his own recognisance in £200, and Mr. John Perks, solicitor, and Mr. William Henry Worthington, became his bail in £100 each.

A new vocal and instrumental society is to be formed at Shrewsbury.

The block system is now in full operation between Nottingham and Derby on the Midland Railway.

The gentlemen of the Shropshire Hunt gave their annual ball on Thursday at the Masonic Hall, Shrewsbury.

Mr. William Page, drysalter, of Kidderminster, committed suicide on Thursday se'nnight by shooting himself with a gun. He had been suffering from paralysis agitans, caused by disease of the brain. At the inquest, on Saturday, a verdict was returned that deceased killed himself whilst in an unsound state of mind.

Proposed Free Library for Willenhall.—A movement is afoot at Willenhall for the establishment of a free library. The subject was brought forward the other night at the annual meeting of the Willenhall Literary Institute. The secretary, Mr. J. C. Tildesley, read the report for the past year, which stated that there was a majority of the committee in favour of the free library movement. Mr. Tildesley spoke strongly in favour of the Institute offering their building and appliances to the town for the purposes of the free library rather than wait to be driven to such a step by the adoption of the Act. Mr. Webb said the people of Willenhall, "by scores and hundreds," were longing for the adoption of the Free Library Act. Mr. Pratt, replying to several questions, said if the free library were established youths might be instructed in science and art. Government would make liberal money grants for that purpose. The public rate would only amount to a penny in the pound. At Kidderminster a halfpenny was found sufficient. The general opinion of the members was in favour of presenting the Institute to the town if the Free Library Act is adopted. The Institute is valued at £1,400

Crushed to Death.—Thomas McHugh, aged 15, was accidentally killed at Mr. Jones's forge, The Birchills, last week. At the inquest, on Saturday, a roller named Sedgley said he was working with the deceased, rolling bar iron. They had been working all night. Witness said—

> I had passed a red-hot bar of iron through the rolls, but instead of coming straight out, the bar turned up, and deceased, in trying to get out of its way, fell against the boxes and was drawn between the spindles, which are turned by a steam engine, and before the engine could be stopped deceased was drawn through the spindles and was dreadfully crushed. Immediately after the accident he was conveyed to the Cottage Hospital, where he died on Wednesday, the 12th instant. Before the accident occurred, deceased had been asleep, and I think he could scarcely have been awake, or he would not have run where he did. Had he acted a little more prudently he might have saved himself. The affair was purely accidental, and no one except deceased himself was to blame.

Witness had turned aside to get a drop of beer when the accident happened, or, he said, he might have saved deceased. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned, and the attention of the Inspector under the Factory Act is to be called to the fact that the deceased, contrary to the provisions of that Act, had been allowed to work all night.

The Warwickshire Scandal.—Another step has been taken in this case. On Tuesday Mr. Serjeant Ballantine (with whom was Mr. Inderwick) applied to Lord Penzance, on behalf of Sir Charles Mordaunt, to fix an early day for the trial of the issue of the sanity or insanity of Lady Mordaunt. He stated that, independent of the question of sanity or insanity of Lady Mordaunt, the unfortunate lady was in a state of bodily health which required special treatment, and the sooner the matter could be determined one way or the other, the better it would be for all the parties concerned. Mr. Searle, on the part of Lady Mordaunt's father and guardian *ad litem*, said he was quite willing that an early day should be fixed if the Court thought proper to fix it. His lordship said he had no right to give this cause exceptional priority over other causes. It was not in the list until last Term, it had never been postponed, and it would in all probability come on in its term in the course of the present sitting. Probably the Court would give precedence to divorce jury causes, as the greater part of the last sitting was occupied by probate jury causes. The cause, which stands No. 12 on the special jury list, will accordingly come on in its regular turn. The trials by jury will commence on the 9th of February.

Intimidating a Workman at Kidderminster.—The Kidderminster Borough Magistrates had an unusual case before them on Friday. Joseph Christopherson, wood turner, was charged with having used certain threats, intimidation, and molestation, to force James Bennitt from his employment, he being engaged as a wood turner by Messrs. Irvin and Sellers. Bennitt had been working at Preston:—

> On the 28th of December he went to Kidderminster, to work for Messrs. Irvin and Sellers. He was not a member of a trade union. He commenced work for Irving and Sellers on tho 30th of December, and worked till six p.m. He went into the smithy, and on returning saw defendant. He said, "You are just the man I want," and witness asked what he wanted. Defendant seized him by the jacket, and said, "You must go with me; we are having a meeting." Witness said he had not had his tea, and asked where he was to go. Defendant said they would find him tea. He went with him, and had some tea at the house of a person named Mawson. Seven men came in, and defendant said they wanted him (witness) to "turn out" with the rest. He said if witness did not do so, it would be the worse for him, and he would be pitched into the canal. Defendant also said that if he would turn out they would keep him, and if he would not they could put him in the Stour. He stayed with them till after ten o'clock.

Two witnesses were called on behalf of the defendant, to say that there was no molestation as complained of. William Wilson was then similarly charged. According to complainant, Wilson called him a knob-stick, and threatened to knock off his head. The assault seemed to have been committed on account of Mssrs. Irvin and Sellers having taken on a number of new hands from Preston, in consequence of a strike amongst his other men. The defendant was called a black-leg, and held up to the ridicule of a mob. A joint charge was preferred against Christopherson, Wilson, and Mawson, and James Bateman was also charged with threatening Bennitt. Christopherson, Wilson, and Bateman were sent to gaol for a month, and the joint charge against them was dismissed. Notice of appeal was given by Mr. Saunders, on behalf of the defendants.

Madame Norman Neruda will appear for the last time in Birmingham at Mr. Russell's concert at the Town Hall, on February 4. Mr. Sims Reeves is also announced.

Day's Concert Hall.—By advertisement elsewhere it will be seen that the programme at this popular hall has for the *piéce de resistance* the Christmas ballet "Splendiferous," which we illustrated last week.

A Relieving Officer charged with Cruelty.—On Tuesday an enquiry was held at the Horse and Jockey Inn, Wednesbury, before the coroner, touching the death of Ann Horan, aged 70 years, who, it was alleged, had received ill-treatment at the hands of the relieving officer of Wednesbury (Mr. Johnson), which had accelerated her death. Mary Ann Tolley said the deceased had received relief from the parish (2s. a-week) up to Thursday fortnight; that was a cold day, and many persons could not attend the pay-room. Mr. Johnson told deceased's daughter her mother must come herself or she would say she had not had it; but that if her mother was too ill he would go and see her. Mr. Johnson said believing Horan's daughter was telling an untruth, he refused to give her the money, but told her he would call and see her mother. The old woman subsequently came; if she had not attended he would have visited her in half-an-hour's time. The verdict was—"That deceased had died from apoplexy, caused by cold and exposure," to which they added that they thought Mr. Johnson was culpable in compelling the attendance of Ann Horan, knowing her age and her decrepit and diseased state of health. The jury wished their verdict to be laid before the Board of Guardians, and the coroner said he would comply with their request.

IN THE ALPS.

BY GUSTAVE DORE.

We this week give our readers another example of the graphic pencil of Gustave Doré, in an exquisite bit of mountain scenery. We were the first to announce that the great French artist and his friend Blanchard Jerrold were jointly engaged upon a great work on London. This publication is so far advanced that the artist will leave Paris, it is expected, at the end of this month, to attend the opening of Parliament, and study the phases of London during the season. Messrs. Grant and Co., the eminent colour printers, are the *entrepreneurs* of the work, which will appear in no less than forty quarto parts. Doré is completing a series of illustrations of the "Arabian Nights" and "Orlando Furioso," and he has recently re-drawn and refined his famous pictorial commentaries of Rabelais. At the present time Doré's studio is occupied by a work in progress which will, we believe, prove to be in every way the greatest of all his pictures. It is a wonderful conception of that great culminating point in our Saviour's history, the Crucifixion. Christ is represented on his way to Calvary. The figures are life-size, and the grouping and light and shadow are in the artist's best manner. The picture will, no doubt, be finished this year, when we hope to see it in England.

THE USHERS OF RUGBY.

"The Doctor told us this morning that he had been offered and had accepted the Bishopric of Exeter. There was a meeting of the Masters, and many of them blubbered."—*Correspondent of the Western Morning News, 18th October*, 1869.

"Three of the Masters cried."—"W.H.G." in *Pall Mall Gazette, 29th October*, 1869.

This life is but a "wale of tears,"
'Tis all made up of griefs and fears,
As you'll learn from the groans of those tender dears—
The hysterical Masters of Rugby.

Awhile, they lived both blythe and gay;
And Dr. Colenso held in pay,
And who in the world more jolly than they—
The jovial Ushers of Rugby?

They ate their victuals, moistened their clay,
Switching the little boys, day by day,
Nor dreamt of their master going away—
Deluded Ushers of Rugby!

But doleful news arrived one day,
From over the hills, and far away;
And thus to them their chief did say:
"O dearest Ushers of Rugby—

"I'm pained—I'm grieved—I can hardly speak—"
The tears from their eyes began to leak—
And their sobs burst forth, all bubble and squeak—
These hysterical Ushers of Rugby!

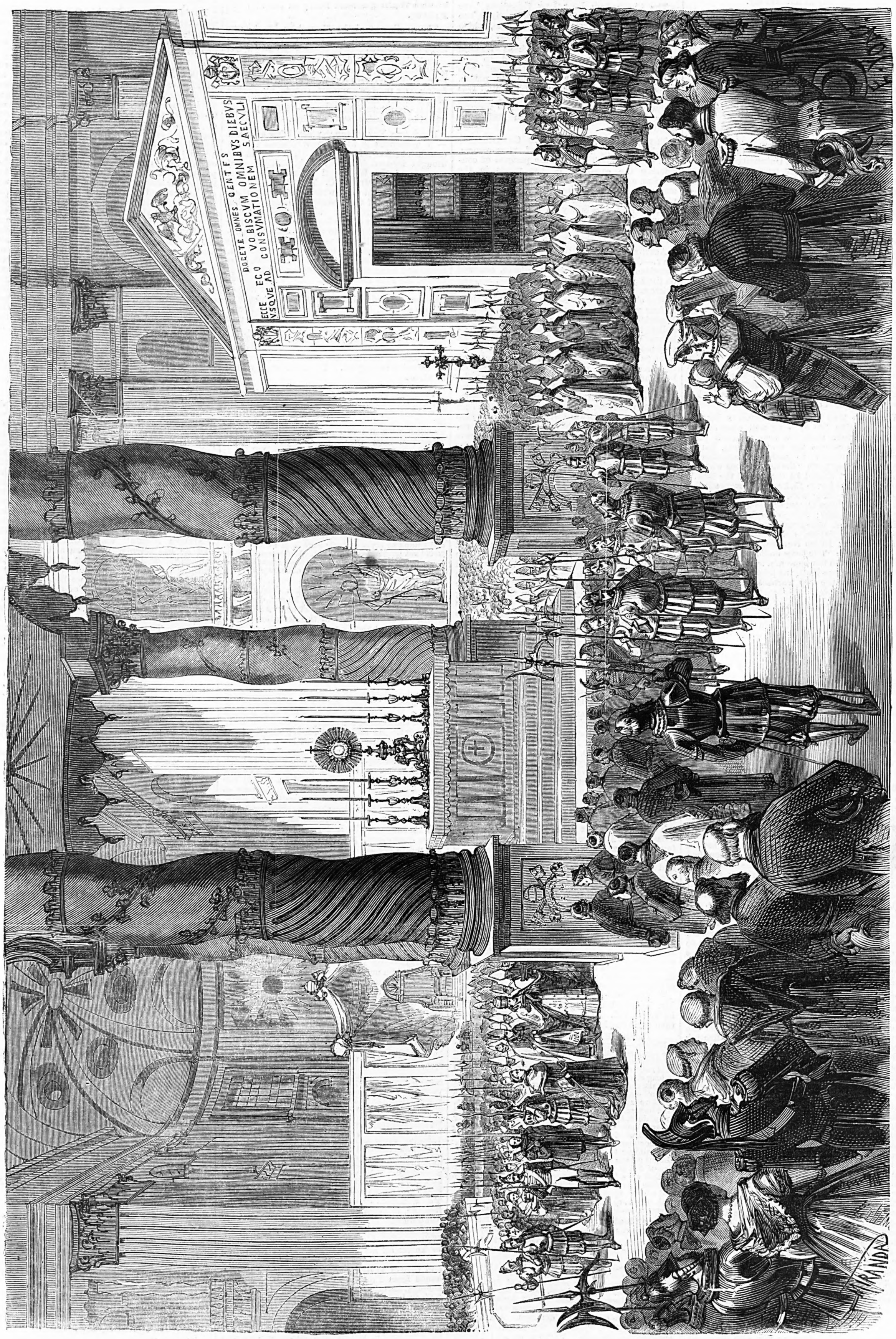
"I'm going, my mates, I'm going away;
How I love you all, I need not say;
But I've got a call, I cannot stay
With you, ye Ushers of Rugby!"

The Ushers all they stood in a row,
And their tears afresh began to flow—
"O, doctor, dear, you must not go
From the desolate Ushers of Rugby."

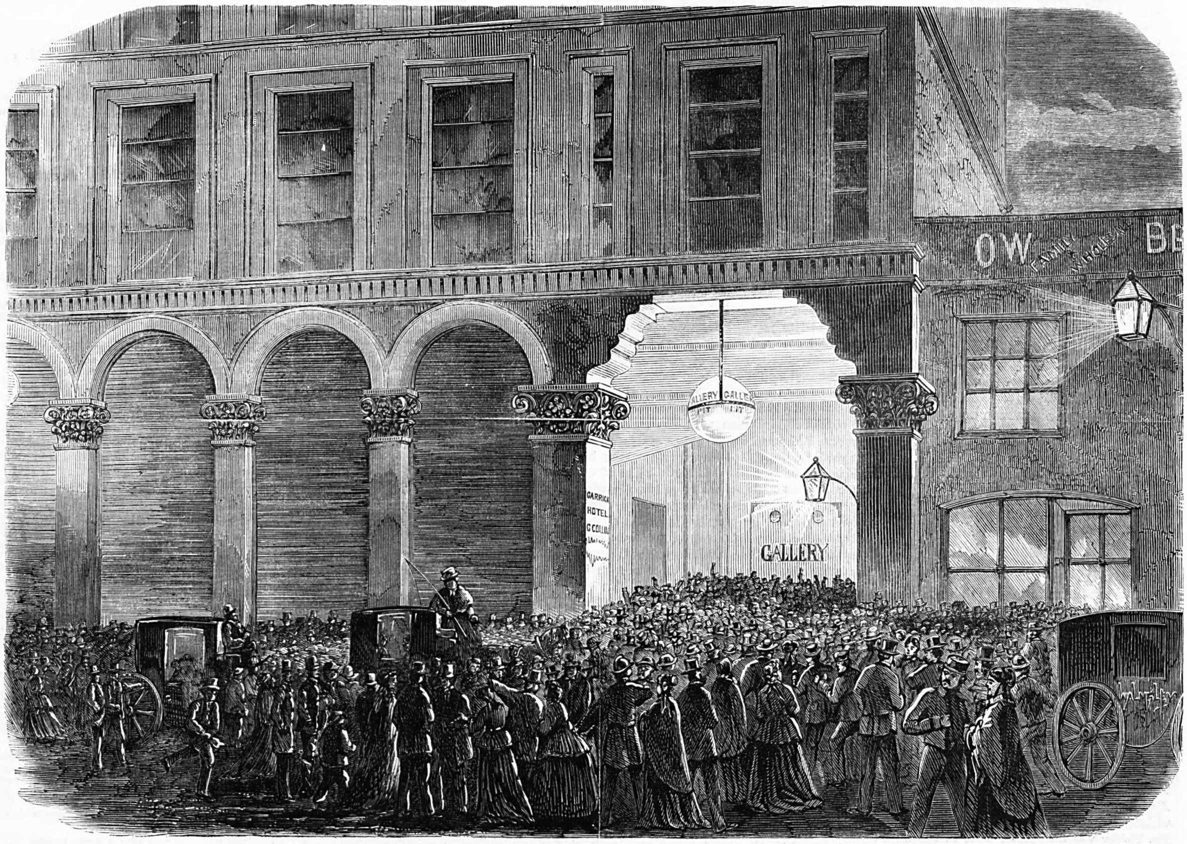
Their 'kerchiefs, then, they all forth drew,
Made of fine cambric, good as new.
And cried till they soaked them through and through,
Those dolorous Ushers of Rugby.

Then they wrung them out, and began again;
Their tears pouring out like pattering rain,
Or Waterworks turned on at "the main"—
Hysterical Ushers of Rugby.

And the torrent arose, till, sad to tell,
Six dear little boys were lost, for they fell
In, and were drowned—O, toll their knell,
Ye lachrymose Ushers of Rugby!


DOCETE OMNES GENTES
ECCE EGO VOBISCVM OMNIBVS DIEBVS
VSQVE AD CONSVMATIONEM SAECVLI

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL: PRELATES TRAVERSING THE BASILICA OF ST. PETER'S. *(See page 352.)*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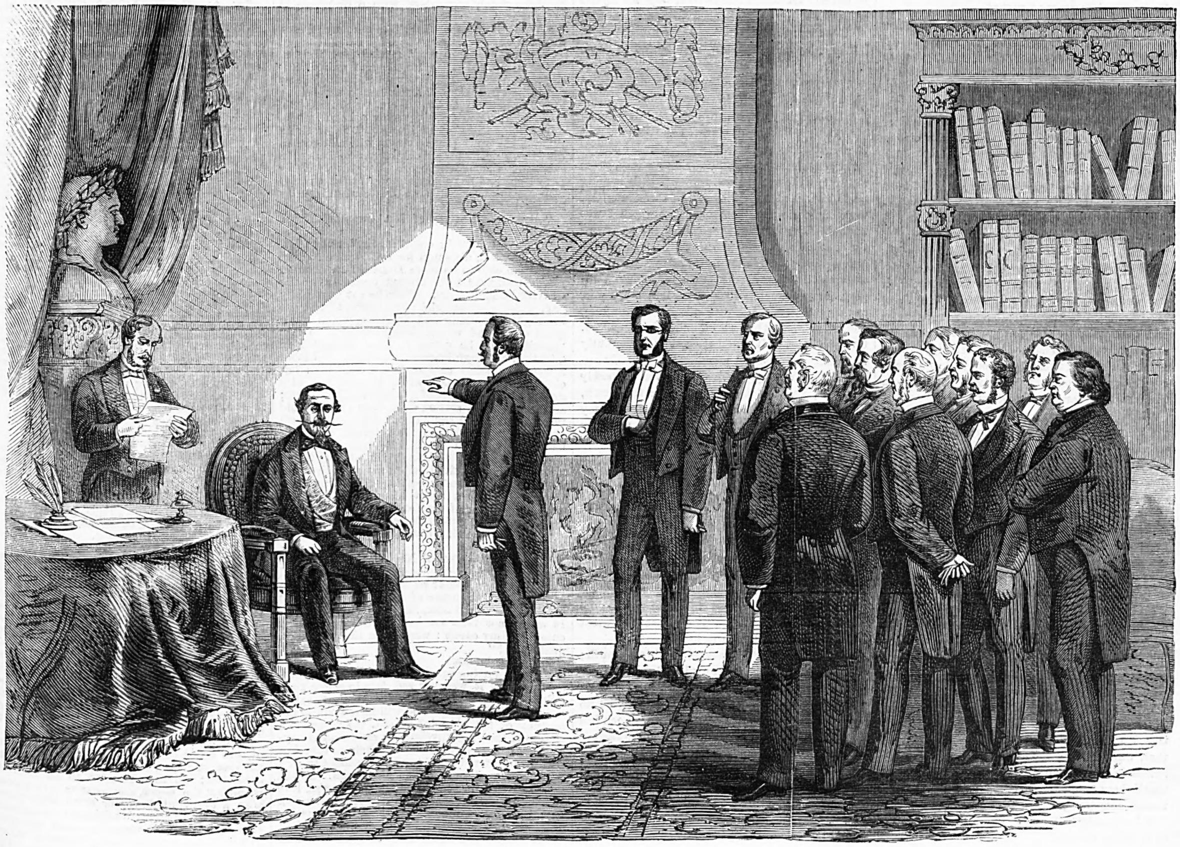
THE FATAL DISASTER AT THE NEW THEATRE, BRISTOL. *(See page 343.)*



THE EMPEROR RECEIVING THE NEW MINISTRY. *(See page 343.)*

TIMOTHY TICKLER.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "VERDANT GREEN."

CHAPTER VIII.

The Tickler's Course of True Love.

During the time that my friend Smith and I had been sitting under the grateful shade of the chestnut boughs that overspread the patch of greensward in front of the roadside inn, my thoughts had been wandering to other things, and my memory had been trying to grasp a recollection that, as yet, eluded it. The name of the strolling player, whom we had thus casually encountered, seemed familiar to me. It was with me as it was with Mr. Buckstone in the farce, when he says, "Smith! Smith? I think I have heard that name before!" so, with Mr. Timothy Tickler's name, I fancied that I had already met with it either in fiction or real life.

Before us, was the country inn, "The Fisherman's Arms," in which my friend and I had just enjoyed our tea and poached eggs after our day's fishing; by the side of us, as we sat on the rustic seat under the chestnut tree, was a small table, laden with the materials for "a brew" of whisky-and-water; and on a chair by this table was seated Mr. Timothy Tickler, assisting us in diffusing that aromatic cloud which is won't to envelop smokers, the while he agreeably passed away our time by telling us scenes from the history of his own life-drama. Perhaps it may have been, that the leading characteristics in our symposium should, suddenly, have carried my thoughts to the goal of which they were in quest, and should have brought to my mind, as with a flash, the two words "Noctes Ambrosianæ." True, that we were sitting in the open air, and were not shut up in a little wainscotted room, like to the famous Edinburgh back parlour at Mr. Ambrose's; and true, also, that neither I nor my friend could lay claim to any pretensions to be considered the rivals of Christopher North and his friend Odoherty, the gifted and unfortunate William Maginn. But, it was the name of our new acquaintance, the play actor, that brought Professor Wilson's famous *Noctes* to my mind. The first of those papers appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* for March, 1822; and in the second, which was published in the following month, a Mr. Tickler was introduced, who, in the third paper of the series, published in May, was invested with a Christian name and distinctively called Mr. Timothy Tickler, under which pseudonym was believed to be delineated the portrait of Mr. Robert Sym, an Edinburgh lawyer, who, at that date, was seventy-two years of age, and who lived for twenty-two years after that.

Here, then, was the cause for my fancy flying over a period of more than forty years, and alighting upon those celebrated papers that so largely helped to make the fame of the newly-started magazine. Could our play actor acquaintance be a descendant of Christopher North's Timothy Tickler, who was fond of his "tumbler of gin-twist," and who certainly had a strong tendency for copious talk? yet, no! though a man might be the offspring of a nobody, he could not be the son of a pseudonym; so, I was forced to acknowledge that the identity of the play-actor's name with the Tickler of the *Noctes* was nothing more than a curious coincidence. I thought of the quizzing that the Edinburgh Mr. Tickler had received on his marriage; and of the song that was made and sung by Odoherty, "on the wedding-day of Timothy Tickler, Esq., and Miss Amarantha Aloesbud;" and, as my fancies had carried me to this point, our new acquaintance appropriately resumed his own story, at that portion of it that seemed as though it were leading through the ordinary process of courtship to the customary termination of marriage.

"When Lucy's pa, Mr. Cuppledish, had given me his word that I might marry his daughter, provided that he gained the coveted appointment of President to the Recreative Roosters, of course, gentlemen, I felt happier in my mind and resolved to do everything that lay in my power towards furthering his plans. As old Cuppledish said to me, "I shall not only have so much pay every night for taking the chair, but there'll be the 'bacco and liquors gracious." And, I think that they had as much attraction for him as the money had. At any rate, he looked to the Presidentship of the Recreative Roosters as being a great help to him in his livelihood, and doing as much for him as the greengrocery business did. Lucy and I had a great deal of talk together on our mutual prospects each evening, when I could get away from my business at Mr. Napper, the hatter's; and I usually was able to share my spare time between her and the Recreative Roosters. Now, I dare say, gentlemen, that, while I have been narrating to you these scenes in my life's drama, you will have noticed that I have a nervous twitching of my nose, as though something was tickling it?"

We certainly had noticed the facial peculiarity to which he referred.

"Queen Mab, you will remember, gentlemen," said Mr. Tickler, "is said to have tickled the parson's nose when he was asleep; and I daresay that his reverence twitched it much as I do my own nose. But, this twitching, as you will also have noticed, occasions a sort of wink with my eye, which is quite involuntary on my part, and is merely a nervous sensation that I cannot overcome; but which, in my present profession on the stage, is far from being a detriment to me."

We could understand this to be the case, if Mr. Timothy Tickler, *alias* Mr. Frank Denvil, of the Theatre Royal, Milltown, gained his bread in the *role* (if I may use the expression) of low comedy and screaming farce.

"Well, gentlemen, the eventful evening arrived. The ancient hostelry of the Old Cock was alive with Recreative Roosters; the members of the Club were assembled in the smoke-room; and the important portion of the sitting had commenced when, according to the rules, we sat in solemn conclave, and anyone who lost his gravity had to pay forfeit. In due course, Mr. Cuppledish was called upon to make his trial speech for the post of president. It was requisite that it should be a laughter-provoking discourse, and it was also necessary that the speaker should be as solemn as a judge while he delivered it. He began well, though a little nervous. He lauded the Roosters and condemned our rivals the Convivial Chanticleers; so long, he said, as he was permitted to be their President and cock of the walk, he would continue to crow over such Dunghill Democrats; late or early should his clarion be sounded in favour of the only true and original Recreative Roosters; and if anyone in Cokeford should enquire who was the humble individual who was up at cock-crow and sending forth a shrill defiance to a set of Dunghill Democrats, then, said Mr. Cuppledish, I will answer them in the words of an actor whom I heard at our Cokeford theatre. He was performing the part of Ratcliff in Richard the Third, but was not very perfect in his part; and when, in the tent scene, King Richard suddenly starts up and calls 'who's there?' Ratcliff answered, without any stops, 'My lord 'tis I the early village cock!' and there, from forgetfulness, made a dead pause; so that ever after, that man went by the name of the early village cock. But, said Mr. Cuppledish, both early and late, you will ever find me prepared to sound the loud timbrel in favour of the Recreative Roosters. All this was said by Lucy's pa with judicial gravity; and he went on for some time in the same strain. He had shaken off his nervousness and had given himself a first-rate start, and was going along like a house on fire—if you will allow me the metaphor; when he suddenly looked towards the spot where I was seated. Alas, that he did so; far better had it been both for myself and Lucy if her pa had gazed at vacancy instead of glancing at a Tickler."

The play-actor paused and lighted a fresh cigar.

"Do you mean," said my friend Smith, "that old Cuppledish looked down upon you?"

"He certainly did so, in one way," continued Mr. Tickler, "from his elevated position in that presidential chair, which he was anxious to occupy for a permanency; and, in the same way, from my seat at the table below, I was certainly looking up to him. But, that was not all. Unfortunately, the complaint of ticklemania, from which I was undoubtedly suffering, predisposed me to aggravated attacks at inauspicious periods; and, the nervous complaint in my nose and eye, grievously augmented my troubled state. When Mr. Cuppledish unfortunately looked towards me, I was, at that moment, filled with admiration for him, and, was gazing at him with unalloyed enthusiasm. Consequently, as it would seem, I was nervously twitching my nose and winking my eye. It appeared to Mr. Cuppledish that I was purposely doing so; and as, unfortunately for the result, Lucy's pa had a keen sense of the ludicrous, my appearance quite tickled him. It was the very remark that you made, sir," said Mr. Tickler turning to me, "when you saw me, as you thought, sitting asleep on yonder bench."

"It certainly was my remark," I confessed; "though I was not aware that you were awake to hear it."

"I have had both to hear it and to bear it through life;" rejoined the play-actor; "sometimes to my advantage and often to my disadvantage. On that occasion, my appearance tickled Lucy's pa so as to cause me to lose Lucy. I think I might paraphrase the great bard and say that Lucy was losey."

"O, Mr. Tickler!" groaned my friend Smith; "that is bad enough for a modern burlesque."

"I humbly apologise for talking shop;" said the play-actor," though a shop-talker may be no more out of place than a shop-walker. Each has his own peculiar walk in life, and my destiny is to strut my little hour upon the stage. Further than this, as I was born into the world branded with the name of Tickler, so, my destiny would seem to be that I must, through life, be fated to tickle my fellow-creatures. Here is cause for sorrow. Let me drown it in the bowl."

And the play-actor plunged his lips into the cold whisky-and-water.

CHAPTER IX.

The Tickler in Disgrace.

"To return to my muttons," said Mr. Tickler. "Although Mr. Cuppledish's thoughts and gravity were equally disturbed by the sight of my face, yet he appeared as it were to be fascinated with my appearance and could not resist the temptation of looking at me at every other sentence that he uttered, and, as often as he did so, he saw me twitching my nose and winking my eye, as though I would say, 'Go on, old fellow! you are doing it in first-rate style, and will win the Presidentship of the Recreative Roosters!' Well, gentlemen, all this took such an effect on my Lucy's pa, that, if he did not break out into a regular guffaw of laughter, it was because he had the tact to hide his smiles behind his large red-and-yellow pocket-handkerchief. But it ruined his speech; he became confused, and lost the thread that should have guided him through the mazes of his discourse. He was also visibly smiling, and at last even his pocket-handkerchief was insufficient to hide his laughter, all which was strictly against the strict and Spartan-like rules of the Roosters. Then he altogether lost memory of the punning sentences with which he had intended to bring his speech to an effective conclusion; and, at last, quite overcome by his feelings, he broke down and came to a dead stop. Such was my fate, gentlemen; I had ruined myself once by tickling with my fingers, and now I ruined myself a second time by tickling with my face."

"I suppose you mean that it ruined Mr. Cuppledish?" I suggested.

"Yes," replied Mr. Tickler; "but it was the same thing, for it ruined myself. The Recreative Roosters took but a few seconds in which to decide that Mr. Cuppledish had proved himself ineligible for the post of their President; and, when it came to the vote, he would have been unanimously black-balled but for the solitary exception of my unavailing vote in his favour. Such is the ingratitude of man that Mr. Cuppledish ascribed his rejection entirely to my fault; and he not only declared that it rendered him unable to help Lucy and me to a start in life, but, when we had a few words on the subject, he positively forbade our marriage. I pleaded with Lucy Cuppledish, but in vain; she protested that she must obey her pa's wishes, and that it was her bounden duty to sacrifice her own desires to his commands. I retaliated that she ought not to sacrifice my hopes. She replied somewhat hotly; and we parted in a very different way to that which had usually attended the conclusion of our evening interviews. The next morning, while I was at my ordinary duties in Mr. Napper's shop, a small parcel was delivered to me. On opening it I found within it a pair of scissors that I had presented to Lucy as a token of my affection. There was also a scrap of paper, on which she had written these words—'Scissors cut love. Please return my gift.' This was all. The gift to which she referred was a small pocket tooth-comb, the only present that she had made to me. Of course I returned it to her, in a blank envelope: and then I realised the fact that all was over between me and Lucy Cuppledish. The bright bubble had burst, and the dreams of young love had been rudely terminated with a disagreeable nightmare."

"What became of her?" asked my friend Smith.

"I am ashamed to say," replied Mr. Tickler, "that within three months she had united herself in wedlock to an individual who had no higher aspirations than those that would naturally belong to a journeyman tailor. I could not resist the opportunity of addressing to her a wedding ode, in which, as I remember, I pilloried, in scathing rhymes, the ninth part of a man who had gone to the greengrocer's for his cabbages, and had then cabbaged the greengrocer's daughter. Poor Lucy! she had but a sorry experience of wedded bliss, for her husband was a drunkard and cruelly ill-used her."

"And what became of Mr. Cuppledish?" I asked.

"You will scarcely credit it, sir," replied Mr. Tickler; "but, although he had denounced the opposition club to be mere Dunghill Democrats, yet, he contrived to be elected President of the Convivial Chanticleers. There he got his nightly pay, which was not much; and there, too, he got his nightly smoking and drinking, which was a great deal; and which, being supplied to him 'gracious,' as he called it, was unlimited in quantity, although inferior in quality. Whether it was the quality or quantity, I can't say: but old Cuppledish, every week, became less of a green-grocer and more of a Convivial Chanticleer; and before long, settled down into a sodden old vagabond, whom I should not have wished to call my pa-in-law. But, in the interval, my mind had gone through great revulsions of feeling. Not only had the abominable treatment that I felt that I had received helped me to crush out of my heart every tender sentiment towards Lucy Cuppledish, but a spirit of revenge had also taken possession of me; and I resolved to give Miss Lucy a leaf out of her own book."

"That was turning over a new leaf;" said my friend Smith.

"Yes, sir;" observed Mr. Tickler, "it was a leaf out of the old, old book of Love—the second edition of that popular work, so far as I was concerned. And the name of it was Mary Ann, the only child of my master, Mr. Napper, the hatter. It would not take me long to tell you of that episode in my career: would you like to hear it, gentlemen?"

We nodded assent.

"It will further prove to you," said the play-actor, "that it was my sad fate to suffer from ticklemania. I have heard of a book called "Smiles' Self-help." You will have seen, in my account of Mr. Cuppledish and the Recreative Roosters, that my involuntary smiles were anything but of the nature of self-help to me; but greatly interfered with my advancement in that path that I had marked out for myself. I shall now have to show you, how, in my second love attachment, with Mary Ann Napper, I was still unable to free myself from the deleterious influence of my peculiar infirmity of ticklemania."

Mr. Tickler paused for a few minutes of smoke and refreshment.

(To be continued.)

THE GOSSIP.

Mr. Charles Mathews passed through Paris on his way to the Antipodes on Thursday last.

The sale of photographs of the late M. Victor Noir has been prohibited by the authorities.

To-night is the 306th representation of "School" at the Prince of Wales (London) Theatre!

Mr. Charles Dickens has resumed his Farewell Readings, which were interrupted by his illness.

The Crystal Palace Concerts recommenced on Saturday.

The "School for Scandal" will shortly be produced at the St. James's Theatre.

Madame Sainton-Dolby will withdraw from public life in June.

Mdlle. Nillson, after an absence of eight months, has reappeared at the Grand Opèra, Paris, as "Ophelia."

It is said that Mr. Tupper intends, during the approaching London season, to give a series of readings in Proverbial Philosophy.

Mdlle. Schneider and M. Offenbach, both being at Nice, "La Grande Duchesse" has been played there one night for a charity.

The Lyceum Theatre opens under new management to-night. Hervé's *opera bouffe* "Chilperic" and a new comedy-drama will be produced.

"Open to Conviction," described as "a glorious, new, and original farce," has been brought out at the Adelphi. It is by the late Robert Brough.

The Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences, Kensington, has been nearly roofed in. The huge building at present is remarkable for size rather than for beauty. Its vast proportions dwarf every structure near.

The Paris theatrical managers are so annoyed at the continuance of the "droit des pauvres" that they have resolved to refuse the collectors of the impost all facilities for ascertaining the receipts at the theatres.

The town of Bonn has begun to prepare for the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of Beethoven's birth, the 17th December, 1770. A musical festival is to be arranged, and the greatest vocal and instrumental artists will be invited.—*Public Opinion.*

A portion of the gallery at the Cirque Royal, at Dunkirk, fell on Sunday evening after the performance had closed, in consequence of the audience becoming impatient at the delay in getting out, and beginning to stamp on the floor. Thirty-two persons were more or less seriously injured, but no one was killed.

Zimmermann, the chef de musique at Vienna, has received an invitation to come to London with his orchestra for the benefit of the highest circle in the land. The Emperor of Austria has been applied to (it is said) through the English Ambassador to obtain that leave for his subject which is refused by the commander of the regiment.—*Musical Standard.*

The projected performance of M. Félicien David's "Jugement Dernier" has been abandoned on account of a difficulty between the manager and his orchestra. The latter were so annoyed with M. Bagier for compelling them to take part in four or five rehearsals a week that they revenged themselves by giving no heed to marks of expression.

Last year 154 new pieces were produced at 34 London Theatres and other places of amusement. In the country 83 new pieces were brought out. Thus we have a total of 237 new pieces, or nearly five a week. Drama is of course most prolific, Of the 154 pieces produced in London 72 belong to this class, while 21 were burlesques or extravaganzas, 16 were comedies, 7 comediettas, 15 farces, 4 operettas, 2 comic operas, and 17 pantomimes.

Mr. T. W. Robertson's new play, "The Nightingale," was produced at the Adelphi Theatre, on Saturday night, with Mr. Webster, Miss Furtado, and Mrs. Mellon in the leading parts. The piece is not equal to the author's previous comedies. A song, introduced at intervals, gives the piece its title; but loose construction and the repulsiveness of Ismael, the character impersonated by Mr. Webster with marvellous power, seem to have militated most materially against the success of the play.

Mr. Frederick Younge's talented "Caste' Company is making a very successful tour in the provinces. The company, which includes Miss Ada Dyas, Mrs. E. Dyas, and Miss Brunton; Messrs. Younge, Craven, Ray, and G. Canninge, may be described as an exact fac-simile of Miss Marie Wilton's comedy company at the little theatre in the Tottenham Court Road. Mr. Younge has secured the sole right of performing Mr. T. W. Robertson's pieces in the country, and "Caste," "School," "Ours," &c., are produced with a completeness that could not be excelled.

Mr. H. F. Chorley, writing to the *Athenæum* on "Musical Prospects," says:—"The managers of our Autumnal Musical Festivals are already 'up and doing.' An oratorio by Mr. Benedict, of some pretension, is to be produced at Birmingham. For this year's meeting, too, Herr Hiller has, we understand, been retained to bring forward a new Cantata, it is said, on an eastern subject. Some of the serious music by M. Antoine Rubinstein might be presented with fair chances of success. At Hereford, Mr. A. S. Sullivan's 'Prodigal Son' will be repeated. Mr. Barnby, too, is entering the lists as a composer, having completed a sacred Cantata on a subject from the Old Testament."

Comic-song writing must be in the last stage of idiocy. Here are samples of the newest productions in comic vocalism:

Oh, where and oh where is my leetel wee dog:
Oh, where, oh where can he be?
Mit his ears cut short, and his tail cut long,
Oh, where, oh where is he?

The above is sung at a London Theatre, and, according to the advertisements, encored six times every night! No. 2 is a little more idiotic. The refrain runs:

I saw Esau kissing Kate,
And the fact is we all three saw:
For I saw Esau, he saw me.
And she saw I saw Esau.

A Pretty Novelty.—A German has brought out, and his brother is selling in this country, what are called transfer pictures, which bid fair to become exceedingly popular, for they combine all the essentials of popularity—viz., beauty, simplicity, and cheapness. On a sheet of paper are from twenty to forty pictorial subjects, enriched with bright colours, some of them admirably drawn; and, with these you may decorate vases, windows, glass, paper—anything in short having a smooth surface. The process of transferring the picture is easy to accomplish. You simply have to cut off one of the subjects, immerse it in cold water for a minute, and then press it against any object to be adorned. The picture being firmly pressed with the hand upon the vase, or paper, impresses itself upon the hard substance; all that remains to do then is to withdraw the paper, and your vase is decorated with a beautiful flower or some other pleasing design. The process is adapted to the ornamentation of japanned ware, &c., and has already met with a very favourable reception wherever it has been introduced. Mr. Stanley, Glebe-street, is the agent for Birmingham.

NOTES ON THE JOURNALS.

An extraordinary statement has appeared, to the effect that a form of typhoid fever prevails which is the same disease as "cattle plague." The hypothesis is said to be supported by pathological evidence, which we shall wait to see before expressing an opinion upon the alleged new malady.

Fire often does cruel things; but few catastrophes of late years have been more melancholy than the burning of the famous "Star and Garter" at Richmond last week, and which, by the way, we illustrate in the present number. To the disastrous circumstances surrounding the accident reference need not be made in this column; elsewhere the story of the fire is told. But a word of farewell to the old hostelry will be in keeping. It had more than fifty rooms, and you saw from its windows some of the most beautiful scenery that the southern counties can boast. The memories which hung about the place were historical. Royalty has dined there; throughout the season everybody visited the place; and thither, a contemporary writer in the daily press (Mr. Sala, we should say) tells us, used to come on Sunday afternoon a "gentlemen of rather broad and squat stature, with grey hair, and a very large shirt collar." This old gentleman dined always alone at a table in the corner of the room, and it was his wont, after dinner, to build up in pyramidal form all the tumblers and wine glasses the table afforded, crowned with a decanter. A smash generally resulted, and the grey-haired gentleman, having paid the cost of the dinner and the broken glass, walked out of the room. Who was he? "The waiters knew him very well. He was Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay."

Thank Heaven, we are never called upon in England to chronicle an affair like that which has agitated all Paris, and which is being investigated at the time of writing. What will be done with the Prince? He will not be guillotined, that seems certain. But the High Court of Justice, which has been now convoked for the first time under the present reign, may possibly sentence him to a long term of imprisonment. This Court sat twice during the Republic—in 1848 and again in 1849—its places of meeting being Bourger and Versailles respectively. Prince Pierre Napoleon maintains the correctness of his statement that M. Victor Noir first struck him, and that, seeing his companion about to draw a pistol from his pocket, he fired at Noir in self-preservation. M. de Fonvielle's story is entirely different. A Paris paper gives some interesting particulars of the young journalist whom Prince Napoleon shot. M. Victor Noir began his career as a journalist on the *Epoque*, the sub-editor of which, Adolphe de Carfort, had employed him to run about Paris and collect the *faits divers*, which were afterwards "dressed up" for publication. When M. de Carfort died, Victor Noir applied for a permanent berth on the *Epoque*, but as he had no literary skill at that period he was placed in a subordinate position. He was subsequently engaged on the *Journal de Paris*, then on the *Rappel*, which he left for the *Marseillaise*, when that revolutionary print was started by Rochefort. His real name was Victor Salmon. There is a touch of romance about his career. He was only twenty-two years old at the time of his death, and he was engaged to be married to a girl of sixteen.

We are the victims of refinement. The *Lancet* affirms it on behalf of the children, and the *Pall Mall* complains that "nobody pities the elderly victims" of parties, balls, and drawing-rooms. Our medical contemporary thinks childrens' parties a mistake. So they are when, instead of being made merry child-gatherings, all the features of "society" are interwoven with them. Many childrens' parties are not "childrens'" in any sense of the word; the guests endeavour to act and talk like their elders, and there is an air of artificiality over all. The rules of etiquette which govern grown-up people are punctiliously observed, and the whole affair becomes insufferably dull and stupid. So far we agree with the *Lancet*. But when we see the youngsters, untrammelled by the restraints which society will put upon them soon enough, and honestly enjoying themselves with dancing, music, and games, beginning their party in the afternoon, and going home long before midnight has thought of chiming—then we advocate childrens' parties as often as possible. The *Pall Mall* reminds us of the "crushing expense" to which those people are put who give parties to their adult friends. This is an item in the general account not to be overlooked; but what does it all come to in comparison with the fearful illnesses superinduced by wearing insufficient clothing and being kept in carriages in the Park, waiting to be admitted to a Drawing-room, while a March wind is blowing through every chink and cranny, and dealing out death to the half-dressed beauties who are martyrs to "Society?" Let ladies wear warmer clothing wherever they are; they would not suffer anything like the misery that now environs them, and their husbands, brothers, and lovers would be all the better pleased.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The wonderful capabilities of the thermo-electric pill as a measurer of infinitessimal quantities of heat have been again illustrated, by recent experiments, by Mr. Stone, of the Greenwich Observatory, upon the heat sent to us from the stars. This subject was started by Mr. Huggins, some year or more ago; and he went so far as to ascertain that the stars shed warmth, which, in spite of the billions of intervening miles, is sensible upon the earth; and he also ascertained that one star differed from another, equally bright, in its warming power. But Mr. Huggins did not go so far as to measure actual amounts of stellar heat. This Mr. Stone has done, and he has determined that the distant sun *Arcturus* sends us heat to the amount of about the five thousandth part of a Fahrenheit's degree! The reader may laugh at such a quantity, but it is doubt real, and not imaginary. The thermo-pill no will measure quantities much smaller; indeed, there seems to be no limit to its sensitiveness; it may be adjusted so nicely that a man cannot approach within thirty feet of it without its detecting the warmth of his body. Some of the stars will not give us even such a warming as that above cited, for Mr. Stone finds that the bright one in the constellation *Lyra*—one of the brightest in our skies—does not shed a tenth of the warmth of *Arcturus*. These are the only two whose heating powers have been measured as yet; for it is tedious work, on account of the fatal effects of the minutest changes of atmospheric temperature during the observations. It is a search for a needle in a bottle of hay. In time, however, an average may be arrived at for the heat of a single star, and then a notion may be formed of the aggregate or the total effect of star-heat on space. The caloric that we can measure is not all that comes earthwards, for the atmosphere is a terrible intercepter of heat rays; and to feel the full warmth of the star we ought to ascend out of the air, which, while we are breathing mortals, we are not likely to do.

Some months ago the bakers of Cologne had their shops unceremoniously invaded by the health officers of the town, who had discovered that the bread from the public bakeries contained metallic poisons in dangerous quantities. The inquisitors found, as they suspected, that the timber used for heating the ovens had been portions of demolished houses—doors, sashes, and such like, that had been frequently painted, and which, in combustion, gave forth and imparted to the air of the ovens copious vapours charged with the colouring matters of the paint lead, copper, and zinc. The bread, in baking, absorbed some of these noxious matters, and became poisonous. Prompt measures were taken to stay the evil. It would appear that other towns have suffered from a like cause; for an order has been issued by the Maire of Douai, in France, prohibiting the bakers there from heating their ovens with old railway sleepers. To preserve these timbers from the rotting effects of damp soil, they have been impregnated with sulphate of copper, and the custodians of the public health are fearful that some compound of the metal may find its way into the bread baked in ovens heated with sleeper-fuel. So they have stopped its use.

If the physiological action of tobacco is not well known it is no fault of the doctors, for they are fond of studying the subject, and telling all about the results of their enquiries. This time the French Professor Sée is the exponent of nicotine's virtues and vices; for he accords it some good qualities if smoked in moderation. He says that in small doses it facilitates respiration; but in excess it produces a species of convulsion of the respiratory muscles. Asthmatic sufferers should use it moderately, because it stimulates the circulation; but too free indulgence in it causes stagnation of the blood. The heart does not appear to be at all affected by gentle smoking, but the opposite extreme leads to serious consequences; the pumping has a tendency to stop, and palpitations are retarded and intermittent pulses are produced. The excitable and hypochondriacal condition of inveterate smokers the doctor attributes to a diminution of blood in the marrow. As to the action of the weed upon the intellectual faculties, the conclusion is similar to those concerning the bodily functions—that in little it is stimulating and harmless, but in gross it gives rise to sloth and mental apathy. The present writer's idea is that moderate smoking has no effect at all upon the mind's workings; he cannot find that it stimulates thought, except in that it gives an opportunity of thinking quietly without appearing idle. No man would like to sit for half an hour doing absolutely nothing, while his brain is at work; but if he has a cigar or pipe in his mouth he seems to be doing something, but his mind is left entirely free. Great thinkers, who do not smoke, often scribble on paper, wander about, and play and fidget during their cogitations.

We may expect soon to see in commerce some beautiful precious stones of artificial make. At a late meeting of the French Academy a fine collection of sapphires, rubies, emeralds, topazes, and even diamonds, was exhibited by their maker, M. Gaudin; and as there are no secrets in science, the manner of making them was freely described. The base of all is alumina, but it is mixed with other substances, silica for instance; because alone it is liable to devitrify. The oxy-hydrogen flame is the magic blast that turns the base earth into adamant; and the colouring is secured by salts of gold, silver, palladium, and copper, which last is capable of rendering jewels of many hues. The stones are not quite so hard as diamonds, but they are harder than strass, which has been the material for artificial gems hitherto.

There is some noise about a new method of photographic printing, which has been invented in Berlin, and is to do wonders. Details are at present withheld, but there can be no small doubt that the process is similar to those already associated with the name of "Carbon," and which are now growing into knowledge. We shall soon hear more about it, for an agent has been appointed in this country to sell licences to photographers desirous of practising it; and this representative advertises that he is soon about to make a trip to Berlin, and will be happy to take a few gentlemen with him, to get instruction from the inventors.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

The yearling trade of 1869 was hardly so brisk as usual, and the number of youngsters actually sold only reached 444, against 551 in the preceding year. There was probably no decrease in the number bred, but a great many failed to find purchasers, and remained in the hands of their owners. Of the 444 knocked down 56 were sold for 25gs. and under, 108 made between 25gs. and 50gs., 109 between 50gs. and 100gs., 130 between 100gs. and 300gs., 28 between 300gs. and 500gs., 9 between 500gs. and 900gs., and 4 over that price. These four were—Crinon (1,800gs.), by Newminster—Margery Daw, half-sister to Seesaw; Hyperion (1,250gs.), by Rataplan—Borealis; Fisherman (1,200gs.), by Caterer; and Church Militant (1,000gs.), by Newminster; and they averaged 1,312½gs. Altogether, 58,548gs. were paid for yearlings in 1869, as against 91,985gs. in 1868, and the average price of each fell from 167gs. to 132gs. In 1867 and 1868 Newminster was the sire of the highest-priced colt and filly, and last year he again occupied the premier position in the filly list with Crinon, who realised the longest price that has ever been paid for one of her sex, the one coming next to her being Chanoinesse, own sister to Hermit, for whom Mr. Chaplin gave 1,500gs. The old Rawcliffe horse was wonderfully successful at the stud, and in 1867 Mr. Blenkiron sent five mares to him, the produce of which made 3,420gs., or an average of 684gs., as yearlings.

The Two Thousand and Derby betting progresses in a very languid manner, and there will not be much done till about March. For the former race Sunshine is somewhat out of favour; and the public seem to have the same strange hankering after Sunlight that they displayed for that fine-looking cur Marksman. Kingcraft is quite at the head of affairs for the Guineas; but his warmest admirers say that he will not stay home at Epsom. It is strange how often this is asserted, when year after year the winner of the Guineas is in the first three for the Derby; and it surely ought to have been proved to the satisfaction of everyone that any horse that can perform successfully over the Rowley Mile is certain to take his own part in the longer race. To show how fallacious such a statement is, we have made a list of the winners of the Two Thousand for the last ten years, together with the places they occupied in the Derby:—

		Winner of Two Thousand.	Place in Derby.
1860	...	The Wizard	Second.
1861	...	Diophantus	Third.
1862	...	The Marquis	Second.
1863	...	Maccaroni	First.
1864	...	General Peel	Second.
1865	...	Gladiateur	First.
1866	...	Lord Lyon	First.
1867	...	Vauban	Third.
1868	...	Moslem 0 Formosa 0	Neither entered.
1869	...	Pretender	First.

From this it will be seen that any one who backs the winner of the Guineas to win and for a place in the Derby is well repaid; but of course the price is always very short. Camel is not such a good favourite as he was for either race, and it is not to be wondered at, when we consider how badly he ran at the beginning of last season. Stanley is also "on the go," and the stable are said to be backing Exciseman, who, like his two-legged prototypes, showed an upward tendency on the abolition of the Assessed Taxes. The rage for Astolfo has also cooled down wonderfully; but Bridgwater is very firm again.

The Altcar Club meeting, as usual, brought out a number of crack greyhounds. In the first round of the Members' Cup, Brigade, who was a little too clever at the drains for Bendismere, just managed to beat him, and old Lobelia, who ran for the first time this season, was completely outworked by Jaunty Jane. Royal Bride beat Baby Blake handsomely; but String of Pearls gave Bacchante all her work to do. In the first ties, Brigade beat Cock Robin, and Bacchante made an awful example of Sea Swell. Having knocked out one of Mr. Lister's representatives, Brigade proceeded to tackle his other—Charming May, whom she polished off with the greatest ease; but then she was outstayed and beaten in a very long course by Jaunty Jane. Bacchante ran a bye with String of Pearls, which Mr. Warwick judged by special desire, and again beat her; and then, with the advantage of freshness on her side, she was too much for Jaunty Jane in the decider. There were never probably a finer series of trials, and in the most terrible weather, Cock Robin divided the Stakes with Beechnut; old Test Act appeared again, but was beaten by Beechnut in the first ties, and Rather Improved won three courses in the Veteran Stakes. Lord Sefton was very unlucky with his ten representatives; but, in spite of the poor form shown by Lord Lurgan's kennel, the public faith in Master M'Grath, for the Waterloo Cup remains unshaken, and, it really seems as if that wonderful dog will be backed against the field before the day.

We have very little hunting news. It is said that a celebrated hunt are going to sell all their dogs at the end of the season, and trust entirely to the "lady" pack. The Bicester will be brought to the hammer, and the possession of them is sure to be keenly contested.

A meeting took place last week, to draw up rules for the matches for the billiard championship. Roberts was in the chair, and Cook, Bennett, Morris, and others were present. A piece of plate, of the value of 150 guineas, has been most liberally presented by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts, Cox and Yeman, and Thurston, and will be held by the champion, becoming his own property if he can keep it for five successive years. The size of the pockets has been decreased to three inches, and the spot placed rather nearer the top cushion, so that the days of gigantic breaks are probably numbered.

LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

"SWEATING" GOLD.

An important prosecution for "sweating" gold coin was begun on Tuesday at the Worship-street police-court. The Act under which offences of a similar kind were formerly tried had proved defective, and this was the first case under an Act passed last session. The prisoners, a man and his daughter, were remanded for further evidence.

THE EXTRAORDINARY CASE AT WANDSWORTH.

The case of alleged deception as to the birth of a child at Wandsworth has been further investigated. Mrs. Ironside, who was represented to have been delivered of a child, refused to give evidence lest she should criminate herself. The prisoners Skeplehorn and wife, who are charged with conspiracy in this affair, have been committed for trial.

DOUBLE STABBING CASE AT WEDNESBURY.

A serious affray is reported from Wednesbury. On Monday evening Police-constables Stanton and Hubery were called to quell a disturbance at the British Queen Inn. Stephen McFarlane, a notorious character, was persuaded to go home, but he shortly returned and assaulted Robert Savage. He was taken into custody, and on the road to the station opened a clasp knife and stabbed the policemen in several places. The policemen were not well enough to give evidence on Tuesday, and the prisoner was remanded for a week.

MADAME CELESTE.

With reference to the case published last week, in which Madame Celeste was concerned, that lady writes as follows:—"The action brought by me at the County Court, Birmingham, was to recover the amount due on the following engagement: a third of the receipts nightly, with half clear benefit on the Friday. In your notice you say the smallness of the audiences led to modifications of this arrangement. This is not correct, as no alteration whatever was made, or proposed to be made by me, in the original agreement."

MURDERED BY HIS WIFE.

Daniel Shaw, a gate-keeper on the London and North Western Railway, near Stockport, was shot dead by his wife on Friday night. They had lived unhappily for several years, and on Friday Shaw threatened to shoot his wife. In the evening, Shaw took his lamp and went to make the necessary arrangements for the passage of a train. He appeared at the outside of the window, and the disagreement was still kept up by threats and menaces on both sides. In another instant his wife shot him from the inside, the door being closed at the time. The wife was given into custody, and made no attempt to escape. She has been committed for trial.

A MURDERER ON HIS OWN CONFESSION.

George Dyer has been taken before the Bow Street magistrates on his own confession, charged with murdering George Wilson, at the Loddon gold diggings, Victoria. Several persons during the past week called at the station-house, and stated that they had brothers or knew persons named George Wilson, who had been murdered in Australia. Mr. Wright observed that even if the statement of the prisoner were true, it would be almost impossible to supply evidence of a murder which took place fourteen years ago. Mr. Vaughan remarked that he had directed inquiries to be made in Australia, and it would be necessary to remand the prisoner until some communication had been made from there in answer to the telegram. The prisoner says that he killed George Wilson in self-defence. In that case the charge would not only be reduced to one of manslaughter, but almost justifiable manslaughter. The prisoner was remanded on bail.

A BARONET AND HIS BUTLER.

On Saturday the Halifax Magistrates heard two charges of assault, one preferred by a footman named Hobson in the service of Sir Henry Edwards against George Lovett, butler to Sir Henry, and the other a counter charge brought by the butler against Sir Henry himself. The footman and butler having quarrelled, were taken before Sir Henry, who gave the butler notice to leave that day three months, and charged him with having insulted his son Churchill. The butler denied having done so, and Sir Henry then said, "You have; a gentleman told me so, and if I had heard it I would have kicked you out of the house." To this the butler replied, "I am surprised you should use language as violent as mine of which you have complained." Sir Henry then told the butler he must leave that day, and ordered the men to "chuck" him out of the house. The men did not attempt to do so, and Sir Henry went towards him, and struck him violently on the left cheek, and said, "If you don't be off I will give you another." This was the butler's version of the affair, but it was denied by other witnesses. The butler was fined for assaulting Hobson, and the case against Sir Henry was dismissed.

A CLERGYMAN CHARGED WITH ASSAULT.

At the Birmingham Public Office, on Tuesday, before Messrs. Kynnersley (Stipendiary) and C. Sturge, the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Munton Yorke, rector of St. Philip's Church, and John Belliss, draper, of High-street, churchwarden of St. Philip's, appeared in answer to a summons charging them with "unlawfully assaulting and beating Thomas Gutteridge, surgeon, of Calthorpe-street, Edgbaston." Mr. Gutteridge conducted the prosecution himself, and Mr. Motteram appeared for the defendants. At first Mr. Gutteridge objected to the magistrates; subsequently he stated his case, complaining that on Sunday week the rev. defendant and Mr. Belliss assaulted him while he was talking to the Bishop of Rochester, Mr. Yorke snatching a packet from the Bishop's hand, and saying it was "a horrid libel, and the poor Bishop (the Bishop of Manchester) only just now dead." Mr. Belliss, according to complainant, seized him, and pulled him away from the Bishop, with whom Mr. Gutteridge said he was intimately acquainted. The case was dismissed.

THE MARQUIS TOWNSHEND AND THE SERVANTS' CHRISTIAN HOME.

On Tuesday, at Marlborough-street Police-court, Mr. Tyrwhitt was engaged for some hours in the investigation of a charge of assault preferred by Marquis Townshend on behalf of a girl named Jane Fulton, by whom he was accompanied, against Miss Mary Ann Gladstone, the Superintendent of the Servant's Christian Home and Registry Office, Great Portland-street, and her sister. Mr. Besley appeared for Marquis Townshend, and Mr. E. Lewis for Miss Gladstone. From Mr. Besley's statement it appeared that the complainant, Jane Fulton, who is about 12 years of age, entered the service of the Christian Home three months ago as maid-of-all-work. It came to the knowledge of the Marquis that the girl had been subjected to violence, and he went with the child's sister to the Christian Home and asked to see her. After some difficulty the child was at length seen, and it was found that she bore marks of bruises on her back and her head. Evidence having been called in proof of the assault, Mr. Lewis, for the defence, said that Miss Gladstone, like the Marquis, although in a humbler sphere, devoted her time and means to the protection and assistance of those who needed aid. She had established a home for servants, where the total charge for everything was only half-a-crown a-week. Mr. Tyrwhitt dismissed the summons.

EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF A COUGH BY POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED.—"Her Majesty's Gun Boat, "Netley," Wick, North East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by his Lordship, the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Anniseed, and I can assure you, with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me; therefore I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million. Most respectfully yours, W. LINZEL, H.M.G.B. "Netley,"—To Mr. Powell. POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED can be had of all Chemists. In Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Warehouse, 16, Blackfriars Road London. Ask for "POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANNISEED." [431

BURNING OF AN HOTEL.

On our front page we illustrate the burning of the famous "Star and Garter" Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday, the 12th inst. The fire was discovered early on the above morning by a lady returning from a ball; but although several engines were soon in attendance the absence of water prevented the firemen from staying the progress of the flames. The hotel was closed for the winter season; the only persons in the house were the manager, Mr. Lever; Mr. Simpson, the clerk; and the cellarman, Mingey. Mr. Lever was unable to get out of the house, and was burnt to death. Mingey, more fortunate than the manager, escaped. He says he went to bed at ten o'clock, and was roused soon after one by finding his room nearly full of smoke and by hearing the noise of burning wood. He got out of bed, and striking a match, lit his candle, which he held in his hand as he opened his bedroom door. In an instant his candle was extinguished by a rush of smoke, but he had the presence of mind to reclose his door immediately, and hastily putting on his clothes he opened his bedroom window and was about to jump out. Finding the distance to be more than twenty feet, he drew back, and reopening his bedroom door, groped his way towards an adjacent staircase, which he descended safely, and then escaped through one of the windows of the new coffee-room. Mingey adds, that when he got round to the front of the hotel there were not half a dozen persons present, and all appeared to be paralyzed with fear. Mr. Lever, the manager, and Simpson, the clerk, were both at the window of the former's bedroom appealing for help, and calling loudly for ladders. Mingey, knowing that there was a fifty-six round ladder in the yard of the new hotel, got the two policemen present to go with him to fetch it, but their united efforts were insufficient to remove it, and in the terrible excitement of the moment the desirability of obtaining further aid does not seem to have occurred to them. Indeed when they returned to the roadway they found Colonel Burdett's ladder raised against the hotel, and Simpson shortly afterwards began his descent. Mingey says he saw Mr. Lever after Mr. Simpson had reached the ground, and that he subsequently let fall from the window a favourite black and tan terrier which always accompanied his master to his bedroom. This would seem to indicate that Lever had not lost his presence of mind, and why he failed in the mode of escape adopted by Simpson remains a mystery. The dog is still alive, and, though suffering severely from his fall, has no broken bones.

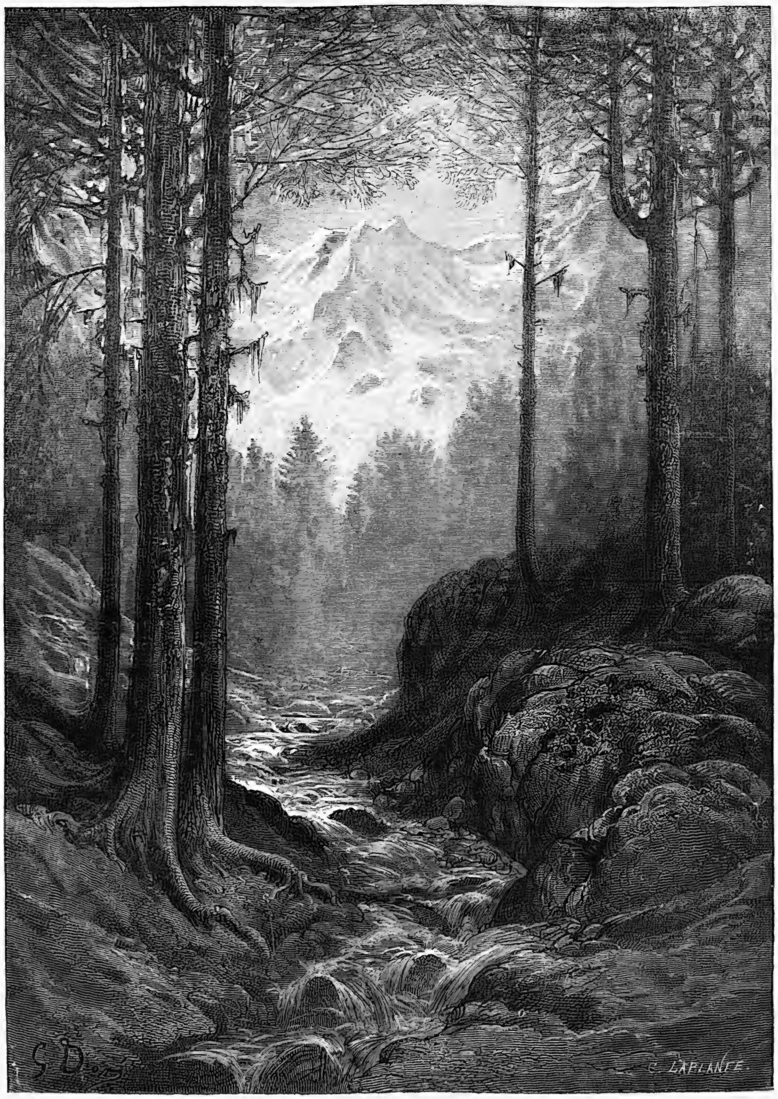
Much indignation is expressed by many at the fact that no fire-escape is kept in the town. Some time since the vestry proposed to purchase one, and asked permission of the vicar to keep it in a corner of the churchyard, but he replied to the effect as the churchyard was consecrated ground he must decline allowing it to be kept there.

At a considerable depth under the place where Mr. Lever was last seen bones have been found. At the side of the bones, a powder flask, known to have belonged to the deceased gentleman, was also found. To settle the question as to whether these remains are those of a man, the bones have been placed in the hands of a well-known analytical chemist.

A committee is to be appointed to consider the water supply of the parish.

The damage is estimated at £30,000, and the hotel is said to have been insured to the full amount in the Sun, Phœnix, and other offices.

RUMOURED LEGAL CHANGES.—It is stated that Vice-Chancellor James is to be elevated to the vacant Lord-Justiceship; that Mr. Commissioner Bacon will succeed to the Vice-Chancellorship; and that Mr. Baron Bramwell will be removed from the Court of Exchequer to preside over the Court of Bankruptcy.



IN THE ALPS.—*BY GUSTAVE DORE.* (*See page* 347.)

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

In a previous number we gave an account of the opening of the Œcumenical Council. We now take the opportunity of giving further details of the proceedings that have since taken place, and an illustration. The mass of the Immaculate Conception has been celebrated by Cardinal Patrizzi, vicar of Sa Santeté and subdeacon of the Sacred College. The cardinals who have given their services to the Pope during the ceremonies have been—as assistant priest, the Cardinal of Angelis, premier cardinal priest, and camerlingo of the Church of Rome; and assistant-deacons, Cardinals Antonelli and Grassellini. The office of cardinal-deacon of the Gospel has devolved upon Cardinal Borromeo. The auditor of the Rote for France, Lord Isoard, has carried the papal cross.

A correspondent of *La France* says that immense crowds of people gathered at St. Peter's to see the six hundred cardinals, patriarchs, bishops, abbots, generals and vicar-generals of the religious order. It was indeed an imposing scene. Our illustration represents the prelates traversing the basilica of St. Peter on their way to the Council-room. Several prelates, infirm or bent with age, joined in the ceremonies, together with an old bishop who went on crutches. There were also two blind prelates, who were obliged to be guided into the church.

The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem (order of Malta) share with the Noble Guard in the pontifical service, and in their brilliant costumes guard the entrance to the Council-room.

The official statistics of the Fathers of the Council presented to Rome have been published, from which it appears that there are 51 cardinals, 9 patriarchs, 653 primates, archbishops, bishops, and abbots *nullius*, 21 mitred abbots, and 28 generals of the religious order; total, 762. The number of persons who have the right to sit at Council or are admitted by privilege is 1,044, consequently there are 282 absent, of which number 274 are archbishops and bishops.

On January 7th the Council held its second public session, which, passing off without the promulgation of a single decree, put the Opposition in high spirits, as it shows that they have been able to resist the pressure of the Vatican. The prestige of this success is certainly exercising an influence on the wavering and timid. The Empress of Austria did not attend the sitting, nor did the King of Naples; and putting aside the Prince of Hohenzollern, the royal tribune was occupied exclusively by the dethroned Italian princes and their consorts.

The Fathers hold Conferences extra consilium, in national groups, in order to abridge the debates, which otherwise might be prolonged to infinity. They discuss the questions before them in their native tongue, and elect the orators who are to declare their decisions to the Council. The Pope, it is thought, has forbidden these meetings, but such an arbitrary proceeding has never been dreamt of at the Vatican, and, in fact the conferences save time by preventing useless discussion, and relieve the managers of the council of a great deal of trouble. The boldness of the opposition bishops astonishes the Roman prelates, who, as the fierce words ring through the hall, hardly believe their own ears. The magnificent oration of Monsignor Strossmeyer did not spare even the Pope: "We bishops are summoned to Rome," he said, not to approve, but to decree. Hence it is necessary to invite the Holy Father to be present at all our discussions; for if we are nothing without the Pope, the Pope, in his turn, is nothing without us." A conference has taken place under the presidency of Monsignor Mermillod, Bishop-Suffragan of Geneva, to organise the Peter-penny throughout the world. Notwithstanding the hundred million francs received from "Peter-penny," and seventy millions from Italy, the Papal exchequer it would seem is in a very bad state.

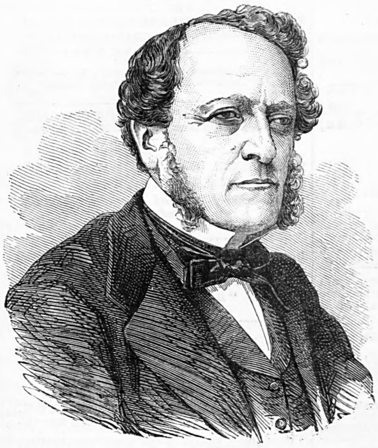
The popular festival of the Buttana, in the Piazza St. Eustace, was celebrated on the eve of the Epiphany with great success and without disturbance.

The King of Burmah intends to present each of the 750 Fathers of the Council with a pastoral cross enriched with gems. The crosses will be transmitted through the Propaganda, which is daily expecting their arrival.

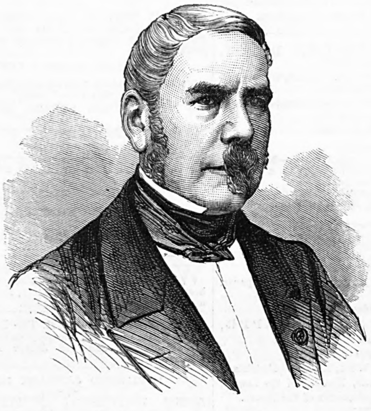
COLOURED GLASS IN CHURCHES.—The Rev. R. W. Hautenville, of Weston-in-Gordano, recently read a paper on Painted and Stained Glass at a meeting of the Bristol Church Union. A strong reason adduced by him in favour of the use of coloured glass in churches was not only "the chastened tone of the light, but the ever-changing effect at different hours of the day," which was produced in Seville Cathedral by the windows being filled with deep colour. We vied with the early architects in the character of the design; we employed choice material in the construction of the walls; we spent money in having the capitals of the pillars elaborately carved; but we did little towards rendering the light around us pleasing and harmonious by means of colour in our windows, and we thus lost the full beauty which would be given to the walls by the reflection of warmer hues, and to the carving by deeper shadows. The writer exhibited some specimens of coloured glass 600 years old, and said that at that early period the colours employed were few, and the various pieces of the same colour in a window scarcely differed from each other in their shade or tint. In these days some artists appeared to endeavour to crowd into one composition every variety of colour, and hence the want of that simplicity which was one of the great charms in ancient work; a simplicity which was by no means devoid of richness, for the artists fearlessly used blues, reds, and yellows, the primary colours, while greens and other compound hues were but sparingly employed: by distributing and repeating the same tints of colour in as nearly as possible the same proportions throughout a window, they produced that even and harmonious balance which it was in vain to expect where a number of various hues were put side by side.

GREAT TOWNS.—The Registrar-General estimates the population of the metropolis in the middle of the year 1870 at 3,214,717, being 41·2 persons to an acre. This is London with the suburbs, from Hampstead to Streatham, and from Woolwich to Hammersmith. He estimates the population of Liverpool in the middle of the year 1870 at 517,567, or 101·3 persons to an acre; Manchester, 374,993, or 83·6 per acre; and Salford, 121,580, or 23·5 per acre; Birmingham, 369,604, or 47·2 per acre; Leeds, 259,527, or 12 per acre; Sheffield, 247,378, or 10·8 per acre; Bristol, 171,382, or 36·6 per acre; Bradford, 143,197, or 21·7 per acre; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 133,367, or 25 per acre; Hull, 130,867, or 36·7 per acre; Portsmouth, 122,084, or 12·8 per acre; Leicester, 97,427, or 30·4 per acre; Sunderland, 94,257, or 19·6 per acre; Nottingham, 88,888, or 44·5 per acre; Norwich, 81,087, or 10·9 per acre; Wolverhampton, 72,990, or 21·5 per acre. The area taken is the municipal boundary in all cases except London. The population of Edinburgh is estimated at 178,970, or 40·4 per acre; of Glasgow, 468,189, or 92·5 per acre; of Dublin, with some suburbs, 321,540, or 33 per acre. The population of these 20 towns of the United Kingdom is thus estimated at 7,209,603. The population of Paris is estimated at 1,889,842; of Vienna, 605,200; of Berlin, 702,437.

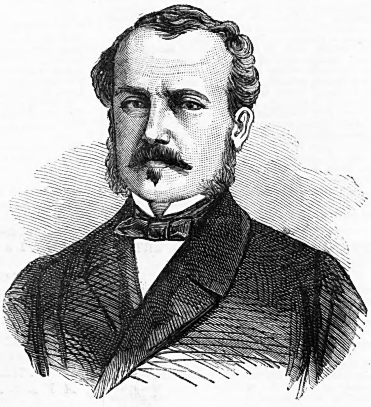
The Dundee Police Commissioners have met in committee for the purpose of considering what measures should be adopted for checking the ravages of scarlatina in the town. This fever has, during the past few months, been very fatal.



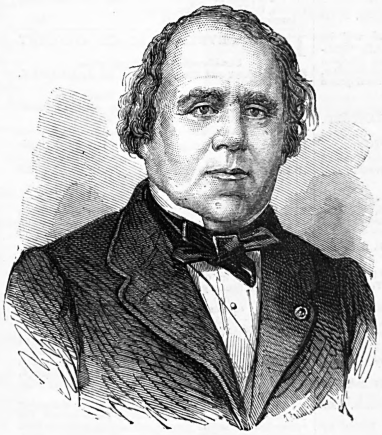
M. BUFFET.—Minister of Finance.



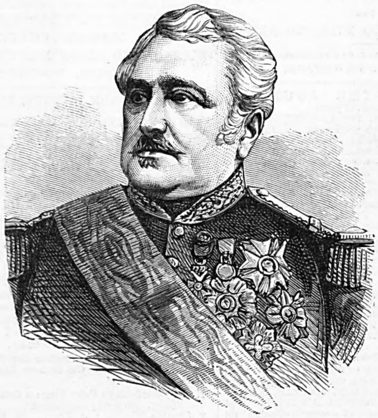
COUNT DARU.—Minister of Foreign Affairs.



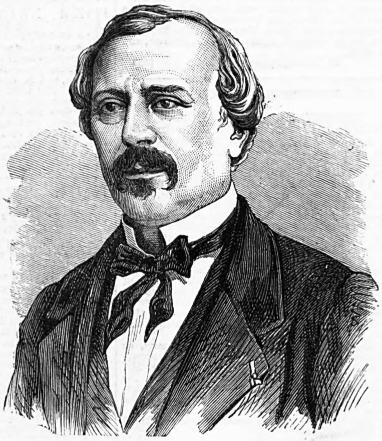
MARQUIS OF TALHOUET.—Minister of Public Works.



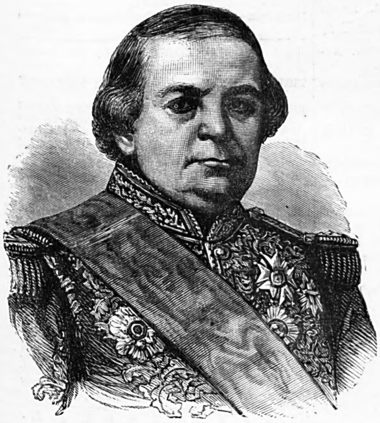
M. SEGRIS.—Minister of Public Instruction.



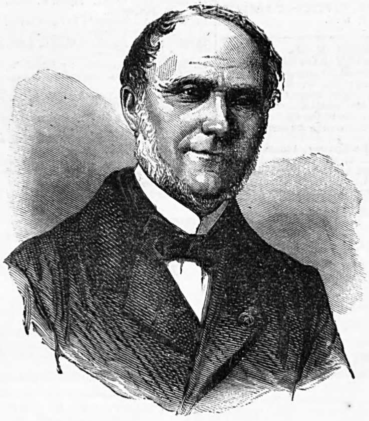
MARSHAL VAILLANT.—Minister of the Emperor's Household.



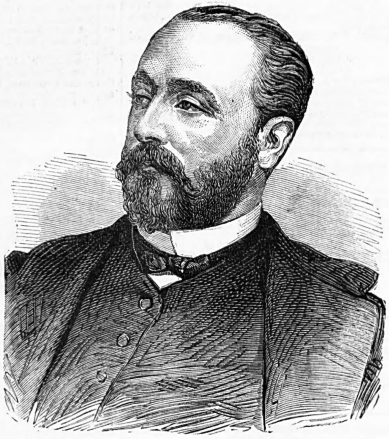
M. CHEVANDIER OF VALDROME.—Secretary of State for the Home Department



ADMIRAL RIGAULT OF GENOUILLY.—Minister of Naval Affairs.



M. LOUVET.—Minister of Commerce and Agriculture.



M. MAURICE RICHARD.—Minister of Fine Arts.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY. *(See page 343.)*

Auction Sale of the Library of His Excellency the Marquis d'Astorga, Comte d'Altamira, Duc de Sesa, January 24, 1870, in Paris.

M. BACHELIN, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, will SELL by AUCTION, JANUARY 24, the most interesting LIBRARY of His Excellency the MARQUIS D'ASTORGA, Comte d'Altamira, Duc de Sesa, Grand d'Espagne, including a Commentaire sur l'Apocalypse, Manuscript on vellum, in folio, of the Twelfth Century, with 110 Miniatures, one of the most splendid manuscripts known of the time—A Romance of Chivalry, 'La Conquête de Troie,' Manuscript of the Fourteenth Century, on vellum, with 100 Miniatures—A Livre d'Heures of French origin, from the Fifteenth Century, with 55 most beautiful Miniatures—Different Manuscripts of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries—An Extraordinary Collection of Livres d'Heures, printed, the greater part on vellum—Large Choice of Books on America and the Indies—Mathematics, Astrology, Fine Arts—Large Historical and Theological Collections—The Church Fathers, in the best editions—Great number of Books in fine rich bindings—Different works of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, printed on vellum: for instance, the Institutes of Justinian, printed at Venice, by J. Le Rouge, from the Emperor Ferdinand the Fourth's Library, &c.

The Catalogue will be forwarded on application at M. Bachelin's Branch House in London, 25, Garrick Street, Covent Garden. [500

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The Properties, which consist of twenty-two selected Silver Mines, in all nearly ten miles in length, and two estates of Pine Woodland six miles in area, in Nevada, U.S.A., have been duly taken possession of by one of the Trustees, who has been to Nevada for the purpose, and the Titles registered in the name of the Trust.

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WORCESTER UNION.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Guardians will, at their Meeting to be holden in the Board Room at the Workhouse, on THURSDAY, the 27th day of January instant, proceed to APPOINT a MEDICAL OFFICER for District No. 3 of the said Union, which comprises the Parishes of All Saints, Saint Andrew, Saint Clement, Saint Helen, Saint John, and Saint Swithin, with an acreage and population respectively of 3,963 and 11,841. The Salary will be £100 per annum, together with an agreed sum of 15s. in Midwifery, and the other Extra Fees sanctioned by the Poor Law Board.

The person appointed must reside within the district, be personally capable of discharging the duties of the office, as set forth in the General Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board, and must be a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, as well as a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries; it is also necessary that he should be registered under the Medical Act, 21 and 22 Vict., cap. 90, s. 36.

Applications, with Testimonials and Diplomas, as also Certificates of Registration under the above-mentioned Statute, must be left at the Offices of Mr. Knott, Solicitor, Worcester, before Wednesday, the 26th inst., and Candidates are requested to be in attendance at the Board Room aforesaid, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon on the day of election.

The duties of the office to commence on the Third day of February next.

By order,
A. W. KNOTT, Clerk.

5, Foregate Street, Worcester,
6th January, 1870.

BUENOS AYRES GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE:—Translation.—We, the undersigned, at the request of Messrs. Jas. C. Thompson and Co., certify that the Iron Safes of Messrs. Chubb and Son, London, of which these gentlemen are agents, were exposed for several hours to the fire that took place in the offices of the National Government on the evening of the 26th instant; that in our presence they were easily opened with their respective keys: that the moneys and important documents they contained were found in perfect order; and that these safes are now in use in the National Treasury Office.—Buenos Ayres, 31st July, 1867.

(Signeo) J. M. DRAGO, Treasurer of the National Government.
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JUAN M. ALVAREZ.

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January 14th, 1870. [528

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[525

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THE FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW will be held in the AGRICULTURAL HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON (one of the best rooms in England for the purpose), on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, February 4th, 5th, and 7th, 1870, when liberal prizes are offered for competition.

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THE MAYOR OF WOLVERHAMPTON.

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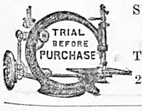

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A NEW and Original Humorous Story, by the Author of "Verdant Green," is commenced this week in the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS.

DURING the New Year, a special feature will be introduced in the pages of the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS of immense importance to all persons engaged in manufactures of all kinds, and to Students in Schools of Art.

J. L. HATTON, the famous Composer, Author of "Good bye, Sweetheart, good bye," and some of the most exquisite part songs of the age, will contribute several new and original works to the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS during the New Year.

INCIDENTS of the WEEK will be Illustrated by an Eminent Artist, specially engaged.

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SKETCHES in the MIDLANDS, by Daylight and Gaslight were commenced on Dec. 18th, in the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS, and will be continued during the New Year.

SKETCHES and Pictures of "Trades and Manufactures" will be resumed at intervals during the New Year.

PICTURES of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Oxfordshire, will appear from time to time during the New Year.

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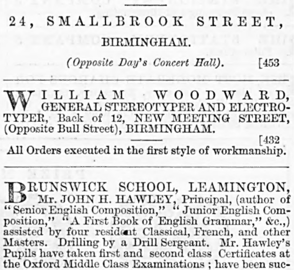

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